

STARS AND STRIPES[®]



DODDS playoffs

Late defensive stop lifts ISB into Division II semifinals

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800 former GIs fail to report for duty

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Costumes, goodies and all things Halloween
Scene

Volume 63, No. 190 © EPSS 2004

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SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2004

\$1.00

22 Iraqis killed in wave of attacks

Insurgents target security points, police station near U.S. base Page 5



Up for the task

Company A keeps eye on Afghanistan

Page 3

First Sgt. Lloyd Compton, center, discusses the Company A, 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment mission in Afghanistan with another soldier and Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Gravens, left, the U.S. Army Europe command sergeant major. Company A was sent to Southeast Asia in September to help provide security for Afghanistan's elections. It was the first time the battalion had deployed in 60 years, but the mission "has gone very smooth."

MICHAEL PICKETT
Courtesy of the U.S. Army

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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

Fla. right-to-die case: A judge Friday refused to order a new trial to determine whether severely brain-damaged Terri Schiavo would want to be kept alive artificially.



Schiavo

The ruling in the long-running right-to-die case moves Schiavo's husband one step closer to having her feeding tube removed, but Circuit Judge George Greer in Clearwater blocked removal of the tube until at least Dec. 6 so Schiavo's parents can decide whether to appeal.

Also Friday, Gov. Jeb Bush filed a motion in the Florida Supreme Court seeking a separate stay while his attorneys file an appeal in the case with the U.S. Supreme Court in the next 15 days.

1969 race riots homicide: An appeals court upheld the murder convictions of two white men for killing a black woman during 1969 race riots, saying the defendants failed to show they were harmed by the 32-year delay in the case.

The three-judge Superior Court panel Tuesday denied the claims of Gregory H. Neff and Robert N. Messersmith, who were arrested in 2001 and were among 10 men charged with crimes related to the death of Lillie Belle Allen, a 27-year-old mother of two from Aiken, S.C.

Neff's attorney, Harry Ness, said forensic evidence in the case had been lost over time, and those losses had an impact on the case. He planned an appeal to the state Supreme Court.

Messersmith's lawyer, Thomas B. Sponaugle, said he also will appeal.

Commuter plane crash: The cause of a commuter plane crash that killed 13 people remained a mystery, but investigators said the plane lacked an updated system that warns pilots when they fly too low.

The Corporate Airlines twin-engine turbo-prop had an earlier version of the terrain warning system that met current regulations, National Transportation Safety Board spokesman Keith Holloway said.

The 19-seat Jetstream 32 was en route from St. Louis to Kirksville Regional Airport in northeastern Missouri when it crashed Tuesday, killing 13 of the 15 people aboard.

Factory explosion investigation: Federal investigators found dozens of safety violations, from defective equipment to poor worker training, at a plastics factory in Illinois, Ill., where an explosion killed five people in April.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration on Friday imposed \$34,500 in fines against Formosa Plastics Corp. The investigation did not reach any conclusions about the cause of the explosion.

Formosa spokesman Rob Thibault said the New Jersey-based company plans to challenge OSHA's findings.

Suspected Pinochet official arrested: A Chilean man who U.S. officials claim was a security officer for former Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet was arrested at his home after an immigration judge ruled he must leave the country.

Fernando Melgarejo, 49, was arrested Thursday at his Los Angeles home after a San Diego immigration judge rejected his re-



Hamas revenge: Palestinian mourners carry the coffin of Adnan al-Ghoul, a senior member of the Hamas militant group, right, and his assistant, Emad Abbas, both killed in an Israeli missile attack late Thursday, during their funeral procession in Gaza City on Friday. Hamas militants announced Saturday they had killed a man for giving Israeli information used to assassinate top Hamas leaders and warned other suspected collaborators they were coming for them next. The bullet-riddled body of collaborator Hassan Musallam was found Saturday near a trash can on a Gaza City street.

quest for voluntary departure.

Melgarejo testified during his immigration proceedings that he was present on at least four occasions when "leftist extremists" were tortured using electric shocks, according to a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement statement.

Military

Boeing/Air Force scandal: Former Boeing Co. Chief Financial Officer Michael Sears is expected to plead guilty next month to illegally offering a job to a former top Air Force procurement official who favored the aerospace giant on several multibillion dollar contracts.

But according to a source familiar with the investigation, prosecutors also are trying to get Sears to admit to something else: that his improper talks with the Air Force official tainted key Boeing defense contracts and hurt taxpayers. He has resisted making this admission.

If Sears agrees to the broader plea, it could fundamentally reshape the Pentagon's ethics probe, spark a new round of scrutiny over several major Air Force contracts and lead to the cancellation of major Boeing projects, the source said.

World

Kyoto Protocol ratification: Russia's lower house of parliament has ratified the Kyoto Protocol on cutting greenhouse gases, all but ensuring the sweeping environmental pact will go into effect after years of delays.

Russia's ratification on Friday was the final acceptance needed among major industrial countries after the treaty was rejected by the United States, which alone accounted for 36 percent of carbon dioxide emissions in 1990. The pact will apply only to nations that ratify it.

IRA suspect arraigned: An Irish Republic-

can Army suspect extradited from Spain was arraigned Friday on a charge of bombing the British army's headquarters in Northern Ireland eight years ago.

Michael Rogan, 44, didn't speak during the magistrate's court hearing in Lisburn, a southwest suburb of Belfast that also is home to the targeted army base.

A police officer said Rogan pleaded not guilty to three charges — including two charges of possessing information likely to be of IRA use — when initially charged in police custody Thursday night.

EU constitution: Italy, which hosts the signing ceremony for the proposed European constitution, intends to become the first country to ratify it, the foreign minister said Friday.

Franco Frattini said that the Cabinet will pass a decree for the ratification of the European Union's constitutional treaty in the afternoon of Oct. 29, hours after the signing in Rome.

The ratification must then be approved by parliament.

The Northern League, a government partner that often has anti-EU positions, has recently proposed that the ratification be submitted to a referendum. However, the Italian constitution forbids referenda for the ratification of international treaties.

Business

Beef trade dispute: Negotiators struck a deal Saturday to allow limited imports of American beef into Japan for the first time since Tokyo closed its lucrative market late last year over mad cow disease fears, Japanese and U.S. officials said.

The general agreement, the details of which will be worked out in coming weeks, came at the end of three days of contentious talks between American and Japanese officials. The pact will also lead to the resumption of Japanese beef exports to the United States.

Stories and photos from wire services

Company A keeping watch in Afghanistan

1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment should return home by Christmas

BY RICK EMERT

Stars and Stripes

HOHENFELS, Germany — The company-sized element of opposing forces soldiers from the Combat Maneuver Training Center is nearly halfway through its three-month deployment to Afghanistan.

The soldiers from Company A, 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment were sent to Southeast Asia in September to help provide security for Afghanistan's elections in October.

It was the first time the battalion had deployed in 60 years.

"It was important that they deployed in time to familiarize themselves with [Kabul] before the election," said Lt. Col. Randy Copeland, 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment commander.

"Now, they are doing a tremendous amount of patrols and looking for things that just don't look right."

As the opposing force at CMTC, the soldiers are a formidable foe to U.S. Army units in Europe that rotate through the training area.

Now, the soldiers from Company A are conducting the same types of missions they've helped countless U.S. soldiers in Europe prepare for.

Most of the soldiers are the only U.S. combat forces assigned to NATO's International Security As-



MICHAEL PICKETT/Courtesy of the U.S. Army

Soldiers of Company A, 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment prepare for a mission during their deployment in Afghanistan to support NATO's International Security Assistance Force.

istance Force in Afghanistan and serve as a quick reactionary force for ISAF, Copeland said.

"They've proven themselves worthy of the task, he said.

"We haven't had any injuries from contact or [improvised ex-

plosive devices] — there has been nothing more serious than slamming a finger in a door," he said.

"They recognize the risks.

"They have done their homework and the background to be

able to say: 'Here's an area that has the potential to go bad.' They will make the right decisions. I've got the right guys there."

Although it was the battalion's first deployment in decades, the Company A family readiness

group leader said life back home is running relatively normal.

"It has gone very smooth," said Rosemary Normand.

"The community has been very supportive. The guys were well prepared before they deployed, and that eased the [spouses'] minds.

"The most challenging thing they are going through is the separation and knowing that the soldiers are in harm's way."

To ease everyone's minds, the FRG gets weekly e-mail updates from the Company A commander, and Normand passes that on to the spouses.

The community also set up video teleconferencing capabilities for families to communicate with the soldiers.

Normand said the support from Copeland and Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Pickett has helped the spouses cope with the deployment.

Normand is pregnant with her third child, and Copeland brought her husband, Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Normand, home from Afghanistan to be with her during the delivery.

"Whatever we need, they get for us," Normand said.

"They are always checking on us — on how we're doing. I think them bringing my husband home to see his baby being born shows the spouses that they do

E-mail Rick Emert at: emert@starsandstripes.com

GI interred 54 years after death in Korea

The Associated Press

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. — Teddy Lilly is home at last.

The 22-year-old soldier was reported killed more than 54 years ago in one of the bloodiest battles of the Korean War. But it wasn't until Thursday that his remains were laid to rest among his family in his home town.

"I had given up hope," said Alma Hodes, who married Lilly about five weeks before he was sent to Korea. "But deep in your heart, you always wonder."

The remains of 2nd Lt. Edmund "Teddy" Lilly III were recovered in South Korea and buried in Honolulu, but identified only this summer through DNA testing. His funeral was held Thursday at St. John's Episcopal Church, where he once served as an acolyte.

Scripture and hymns told of Lilly having already gone home.

"From the moment the mortar exploded, his soul soared like an eagle to his God," the Rev. Louanne Loch said.

She read a poem written years ago by Lilly's father, Col. Edmund J. Lilly Jr., who had been held prisoner in World War II: "Word came! Our fears were real-

ized. It stabbed us like a knife. Our boy so loved his freedom that he bought it with his life."

Afterward, Lilly's remains were buried in a family plot at nearby Cross Creek Cemetery.

The services were attended by Lilly's widow, two sisters, old friends and younger relatives — only a few of whom were old enough to remember him.

Garrett Dale, Lilly's 22-year-old great-nephew, is in the Air Force. He had researched Lilly's story, but learned much more since the DNA match was made in June.

"I was rather overjoyed," Dale said. "This is such a rare occurrence. It does it with national pride that they're still trying to find [remains]. To know even in death, he's still one of our own."

Lilly was one of more than 8,100 servicemen considered missing in action from the Korean War. He belonged to the 1st Battalion of the 9th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division. His company was wiped out at the battle of the Pusan Perimeter, one of the most violent of the war.

Lilly died Sept. 3, 1950, he was posthumously awarded the Silver Star.

His remains were identified



Alma Hodes, seated right, is presented a POW/MIA flag by Frank Hicks of Rolling Thunder during funeral services for 2nd Lt. Edmund "Teddy" Lilly III at Cross Creek Cemetery in Fayetteville, N.C., on Thursday. Next to Hodes are Lilly's sisters Victoria "Tori" MacMillan, left, and Elizabeth Ann Barrett. Lilly was killed in action during the Korean War.

from those of about 1,000 soldiers in buried Hawaii's Punchbowl Cemetery using DNA samples taken from his sisters. Only a few servicemen from the cemetery have been identified, according to the Pentagon's POW/MIA Office.

Retired Col. William Baxley spent three years as Lilly's room-

mate at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and graduated with him in 1950.

Baxley was supposed to go to Korea, too, but he was sent to Alaska instead.

"I wrote him a letter from Alaska, and I got it back," Baxley said. "I think it said 'missing in action.' Just returned, unopened."

Reprieve for warplane

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — Almost three weeks after announcing the famed Memphis Belle warplane would be moved to Ohio, the Air Force is giving the city more time to find a way to keep the plane.

The decision allows 60 days for the city and the Air Force to work out an agreement, which could include a timeline committing local authorities to getting necessary preservation and presentation work completed.

The delay is the result of efforts by Memphis officials and members of Congress to reverse the Air Force decision announced Oct. 5.

"Memphians saved this historic aircraft from the junkyard almost 60 years ago, and Memphians are currently restoring it to its original state," said U.S. Rep. Harold Ford Jr., D-Tenn.

"We will keep working together as a community to keep this historic aircraft in Memphis where it belongs."

The Belle was one of the first B-17s to complete a required 25 combat missions over German-occupied Europe. Its crew came home for a nationwide bond-selling tour and the Belle became a wartime symbol of heroism and sacrifice.

From The Associated Press



CHARLIE COON/Stars and Stripes

Senior Master Sgt. Alan S. Johnson stands in front of a bank of new computers at the new Regional Network Operations and Security Center at the Defense Information Systems Agency in Stuttgart, Germany.

Agency unveils control center

BY CHARLIE COON
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — Even when he is awakened in the middle of the night, Senior Master Sgt. Alan S. Johnson said he has the best job in the world.

"When the president can't talk to somebody and they ask me, 'What are you going to do about it,' it doesn't get any better than that," said Johnson, who on Friday unveiled the \$2.158 million Regional Network Operations and Security Center.

The center is where around-the-clock civilians and servicemembers monitor and troubleshoot military communication lines in Europe, Africa and southwest Asia. It took two weeks for the staff to swap out more than 150 old computers and 200 old monitors for new ones, while keeping the place running at the same time.

"It was a ballet," Johnson said. "The choreography of this was magnificent."

All classified and unclassified phone and computer lines run through the center, which is part of the Defense Information Systems Agency, located at Patch Barracks. The center also monitors the pictures sent by unmanned spy aircraft in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Even with its high-tech heritage, the control center used to be nicknamed "the dungeon" because of its brown carpeting and the dim lighting needed to reduce glare on the old-style monitors.

As many as 35 analysts per

shift used to have to jump back and forth between computers to do their jobs. They rolled across the dungeon floor from one monitor to another and almost needed a traffic-cop to direct things.

Now each employee has a bank of flat-screen, easy-to-read monitors front and center.

"We took the same amount of space and put people more appropriately in it," said Jim Hill a DSN/DSRN (phone lines) controller. "We put people who work together next to each other."

"I think we're more efficient and more reactive," he said. We can respond quicker and better."

While it took two weeks to swap equipment, the plan started taking shape a year ago when Johnson was asked to fit six more people into the room and simply couldn't.

"We started coming to the conclusion that things had to change," he said.

For the analysts, who watch every link, router and switch in the various networks, the project wasn't just about computers. Flooring and air-conditioning were overhauled, too.

By telephone, e-mail and teleconference, the DISA mission is to "get digits in the right place at the right time," said Army Col. Mike Flynn, the DISA commander.

"This project involved human engineering as well as technical engineering. People ought to have a good time and enjoy their job. This is a better way to do that."

E-mail Charlie Coon at: coonc@mail.strips.osd.mil

Students parade for homecoming



PHOTOS BY RAYMOND T. CONWAY/Stars and Stripes

H.H. Arnold High School student members of the National Society of Black Engineers march during a homecoming parade through military family housing in Wiesbaden, Germany, on Friday.



Above: H.H. Arnold High School JROTC cadets take part in the homecoming parade.
Right: Marquin Carr of the JROTC leads fellow cadets in the parade.



Troops, supplies head to Sudan



LAUREN PADDEN/U.S. Air Force

Airmen from the 723rd Air Mobility Squadron and 38th Airlift Squadron load cargo onto a C-130 aircraft at Ramstein Air Base, Germany, early Friday morning. Three Ramstein C-130 aircraft and approximately 90 airmen departed Ramstein for Kigali, Rwanda, to begin an airlift mission to the Darfur region of Sudan. The C-130s will transport Rwandan peacekeepers to the Darfur region over a two-week period.

22 dead in attacks on Iraq security points

U.S. arrests suspected al-Zarqawi terror aide

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Suicide bombers struck Iraqi security targets Saturday north and west of Baghdad, killing 22 Iraqis, officials said. Six U.S. soldiers were wounded in an ambush on the road to Baghdad airport — one of the country's most dangerous routes.

Elsewhere, the U.S. military announced the arrest of what it said was a newly promoted senior leader in Abu Musab al-Zarqawi's terror movement — taken into custody during an early morning raid near Fallujah.

At least 16 Iraqi policemen were killed and 40 others injured when a suicide driver detonated his car at a police station near a U.S. Marine base in Khan al-Baghdadi, about 140 miles west of the capital, according to police. No Americans were hurt in the 7 a.m. attack, the U.S. military said.

A second suicide driver killed four guardsmen and injured six others in an attack Saturday near an Iraqi National Guard checkpoint in Ishaqi, 6 miles south of Samarra, police said. Another two guardsmen were killed in a convoy attack in the northern part of the city.

The six American soldiers were injured when a roadside bomb exploded near their patrol about 7:15 a.m. on the main road linking Baghdad airport with the city center. One armored vehicle was destroyed but none of the soldiers received life-threatening injuries, the U.S. military said.

Insurgent attacks have increased by 25



A U.S. Army Bradley fighting vehicle burns next to the airport highway Saturday in Baghdad. A roadside bomb exploded near a U.S. military convoy, injuring six soldiers.

percent across the country since the Islamic holy month of Ramadan began last week-end.

The purported al-Zarqawi aide was arrested along with five other people in a raid before dawn outside Fallujah, the military said. The person's name was not released, but a U.S. statement said the individual had risen in rank as other al-Zarqawi associates had been killed in U.S. attacks against Fallujah.

Fallujah residents identified those arrested as Abdel-Hamid Fiyadh, 50, his sons

Walid, 18, and Majid, 25, and three relatives. Relatives insisted the men had nothing to do with al-Zarqawi.

Al-Zarqawi's group has claimed responsibility in numerous beheadings and suicide car bombings, including recent twin bombings inside Baghdad's Green Zone, where the U.S. and Iraqi leadership are housed.

Meanwhile on Saturday, gunmen opened fire on a convoy of Turkish trucks in Mosul, killing two drivers — a Turk and a Yugoslav — and wounding two others, hospital and police officials said.

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Friday, at least 1,104 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 844 died as a result of hostile action, according to the Defense Department. The figures include U.S. military civilians.

The AP count is three higher than the Defense Department's tally, last updated at Friday 10 a.m. EDT.

The British military has reported 67 deaths: Italy, 19; Poland, 13; Spain, 11; Ukraine, nine; Bulgaria, six; Slovakia, three; Thailand, two; the Netherlands, two; and Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Hungary and Latvia have reported one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 966 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 735 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ **Not reported.**
The latest identification reported by the military:
■ **Marine Sgt. Douglas E. Bascom, 25,** Colorado Springs, Colo.; killed Wednesday in Iraq's Anbar province; assigned to 2nd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, Calif.

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Surviving Christmas

Starring Ben Affleck, James Gandolfini



Facing another Christmas alone, Drew decides to go back to his idyllic child-hood home to spend the holidays with family. There is, however, one problem: the people living there now are not Drew's family. Nevertheless, Drew has his mind set on an old-fashioned family Christmas, and the fact that the "family" in question, the Valcos, are complete strangers, isn't about to put a crimp in his plans.

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Surviving Christmas

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Bamberg	12-18 Nov
Baumholder	26 Nov-02 Dec
Bitburg	10-16 Dec
Camp Doha	26 Nov-02 Dec
Darmstadt	03-09 Dec
Dexheim	19-25 Nov
Friedberg	17-23 Dec
Grielsdorf	03-09 Dec
Grafenwohr	12-18 Nov
Hansau	05-11 Nov
Heidelburg	12-18 Nov
Hohenfels	19-25 Nov
Ilshausen	03-09 Dec
Kallertbach	26 Nov-02 Dec
Kitzingen	26 Nov-02 Dec
Kozen	17-23 Dec
Lakenheath	12-18 Nov
Mannheim	05-11 Nov
Mildenhall	05-11 Nov
Ramstein Herford	19-25 Nov
Ramstein Nightingale	12-18 Nov
Rhein Main	26 Nov-02 Dec
Schweinfurt	19-25 Nov
Sprendshausen	03-09 Dec
Taritz	31 Dec 04-06 Jan
Vaihingen	19-25 Nov
Wienau	17-23 Dec
Wilsack	05-11 Nov
Vogelweh	05-11 Nov
Wiesbaden	12-18 Nov
Wuerzburg	05-11 Nov



Showtimes are subject to change. Please check your local theater or aafes.com to verify show dates.



Document: Conditions may have led to abuse

By PAISLEY DODDS
The Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — Poor living conditions for U.S. soldiers and an immersion in an unfamiliar culture may have contributed to abuses at U.S. detention facilities in Iraq, according to government documents released to the American Civil Liberties Union on Thursday.

The New York-based group received 6,000 pages of documents, one of which said that because of an "atmosphere of danger, promiscuity and negativity, the worst human qualities and behaviors came to the fore and a pervasive dominance came to prevail, especially at Abu Ghraib."

The same document cited instances where U.S.-contracted interpreters raped a male juvenile detainee and said military personnel operated in a "conspiracy of silence."

The document, prepared by an Air Force psychiatrist, was part of a previously unclassified annex to a report released earlier this year by Army Maj. Gen. Antonio M. Taguba. His report found that some soldiers had committed "sadistic, blatant and wanton" criminal acts at Abu Ghraib.

The 6,000 pages were received about a year after the ACLU filed a Freedom of Information Act request, said Amrit Singh, a staff attorney. After more than a year of stonewalling, the government has finally released some documents, though many are heavily redacted, Singh said. "The records confirm the abuse was widespread."

The documents stated that in certain areas of the prison abuse was commonplace. One platoon leader, whose name was redacted, allowed guards to carry legal weapons.

Certain psychological factors for U.S. soldiers could have contributed to the abuse, the documents said, including poor living conditions at the prison, the physical danger in Iraq, the lack of command structure and the lack of understanding and respect for Islamic culture.

The report said U.S. troops were immersed in the Islamic culture, "a culture that many were encountering for a first time."

The documents also said there needed to be a new support system for a new "psychological battlefield," where military personnel are faced with factors that include "negativity, anger, hatred and desire to dominate and humiliate."

Some of the documents were posted on the ACLU's Web site, and the group said the remaining documents would be posted soon.

Other documents cite details of abuse at other U.S. detention facilities including outposts in Afghanistan and Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Anaconda gets U.S. troops moving

Processing center in Iraq determined to get units, cargo to their destination

By JULIANA GITTNER

Stars and Stripes

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq — Last month, 20,000 people passed through the Personnel Processing Center at LSA Anaconda and Balad Air Field.

The travelers included servicemembers and civilians, in units or on their own, heading home, into theater, to rest and recuperation trips or on some kind of emergency leave.

"Essentially, it's like an airport," said Army Capt. Kevin McPherson, commander of the 21st Replacement Company, 13th Corps Support Command Special Troops Battalion, which operates the processing center.

As one of the major entry points into the theater, flights from around the world and across the region come to Balad.

The center — run by McPherson's team with help from the Air Force and the contracting firm KBR — processes, houses and helps to feed and inform the thousands of passengers passing through.

They help units move people and cargo and individuals get home in an emergency. When a C-5 returns after takeoff due to mechanical problems, they help the few hundred passengers find another way out.

"It's all part of taking care of soldiers," McPherson said.

"We're making it as comfortable as possible for everyone."

The processing center also helps units manage redeployment requirements.

In the few days before units board their flights out, they participate in Deployment Cycle Support briefings to prepare them for re-entry into their normal lives.

Before, units would be responsible for orchestrating these briefings, often after they returned home, McPherson said. The briefings include sessions on family reunions, financial issues, suicide awareness and a high-tech medical questionnaire.

During the medical briefing, soldiers complete a relatively new computerized health questionnaire on a hand-held Iraq computer. Their answers to questions about what they may have been exposed to or any injuries



PHOTOS BY JULIANA GITTNER/Stars and Stripes

Sgt. 1st Class Sean Moore, with the 12th Battalion, 104th Division from Fort Lewis, Wash., completes the computerized medical questionnaire as part of his unit's Deployment Cycle Support at the LSA Anaconda Personnel Processing Center.

suffered are encoded into a card they bring with them to doctors at home.

The questionnaire looks for dental and non-battle injuries including mental health problems. Doctors look out for tuberculosis, malaria or other diseases more common to Iraq.

"We're worried about things that are theater specific," said Col. David Jack, preventative medicine officer for the 118th Medical Battalion.

Medical professionals at the center also go over the questionnaire with them to make referrals.

While the deployment briefings help units process their personnel, many soldiers wish they could just go home and take care of administrative duties later.

"I think they should give you a plane ticket and let you go home," said Sgt. 1st Class Sean Moore, with the 12th Battalion, 104th Division from Fort Lewis, Wash.

While they wait, transient personnel are housed in a network of tents near the center if they will be leaving soon, and across the base at a tent city annex if they have more than a day or two to wait.

For units, the center alleviates much of the stress of moving troops.

"For redeployment, they'll be in charge of the whole process," said 1st Lt. Gladys Aglibot, the liaison officer between the center and the 1st Infantry Division.

Without the center, she said, "more of the unit would be resourced."

The system is effective but there are plenty of kinks to work out, she adds. She would also like the transient housing consolidated to help keep track of soldiers.

"There are miscommunications and overflows," she said. "But it has improved somewhat over the last few months."

Despite a few obstacles, the center continually develops new ways of managing the huge flow of people.

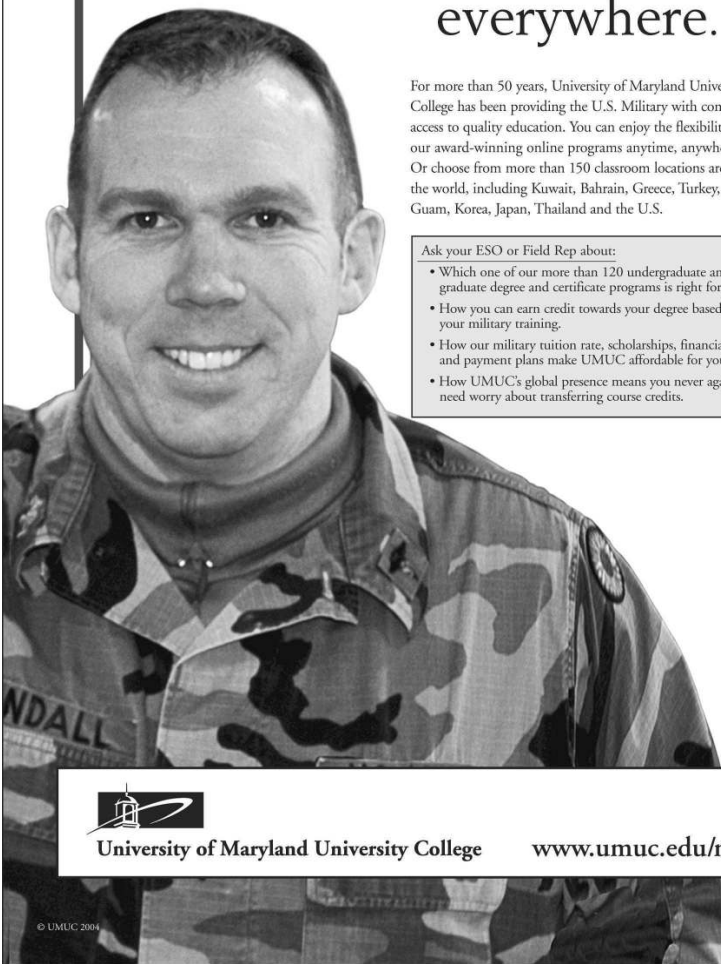
For those in charge, the challenges never end.

"We moved the equivalent of a town last month," McPherson said. "All I know is I sure don't want to be an airport manager."

E-mail Juliana Gittner at: gittnerj@stripes.osd.mil



Col. David Jack looks over a soldier's computerized medical questionnaire as part of the Deployment Cycle Support at the LSA Anaconda Personnel Processing Center. In the background are several of the Iraq units used for the questionnaire. The devices generate a card so soldiers can carry their records with them.

A black and white photograph of a man in a military camouflage uniform, smiling. He is wearing a turtleneck under his uniform shirt. The name "NDALL" is visible on his left chest.

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www.umuc.edu/military

Time for kindness in war's slow mornings

BY WARD SANDERSON

Stars and Stripes

ABU GHRAIB, Iraq — The radio chirped and coughed, then came the message.

Military police killed someone in the evening because that someone tried a drive-by in this hard-scrabble town that is home to the infamous prison.

The morning chatter switched topics: A vehicle had been casing the base gate. The radio told soldiers to keep an eye out.

Sgt. Patrick Castillo listened and eyed the flickering satellite map that guided his armored Humvee around sector. Castillo, the two other troops inside and another Humvee were on patrol for another shooter.

The insurgents set up in clearings and try to fire rockets or mortars inside U.S. camps around Baghdad International Airport. Castillo and the 1st Cavalry Division's 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, try to catch them in the act.

It can get exciting — too exciting — as when a truck bomb slammed into a municipal building last month, blowing it to hell and killing an American soldier, two Iraqis and wounding at least 13 other people. Castillo saw the mushroom cloud and felt the blast from nearly a mile away and responded with his team.

Other mornings there is nothing but idle locals and wind and sand. The soldiers hope for quiet this morning. But they didn't know.

The low-riding, determined bulk of the Humvees sped forward and in the distance a smoke column churned into the sky. Probably a garbage fire, Castillo guessed, or burning tires.

Soon the Humvees stopped near some hovers.

Pfc. Michael Lewis got out of the Humvee in front of Castillo's and started handing out sandals. The 2-12 had collected about 2,500 pairs via a campaign started by their commander, Lt. Col. Tim Ryan, and a Georgia church and strangers contacted via e-mail. They called it Operation Flip-Flop.

Troops turn terror hunt into charity run at Iraq town



WARD SANDERSON/Stars and Stripes

Iraqi children in the Abu Ghraib area crowd around Army Sgt. Patrick Castillo as he digs out more flip-flop sandals to give away.

“Most of these kids don’t understand. They see it, it’s free, they want more. It’s not enough that we come.”

Pfc. Michael Lewis

2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division

Since the anti-mortar soldiers go outside the wire anyway, they get volunteered for these things. They were a little nervous about it, though, parked on the open road.

Children came, dusty and demanding. “Mister, mister,” they called. “Mister, baby.” They called themselves that, regardless of age. A baby should get free stuff, they figured.

Soon it became a melee of arms and tugging with Lewis in the middle. He was getting mad. Lewis told them to back off, sharply at first, then checked himself.

About 50 children encircled him. Some kids soon looked like

flip-flop trees. Lewis had none. A little girl in a red dress kept trying for a pair, but bigger boys shoved her.

“Oh, man,” Pfc. Douglas Brewster said. “I can’t take this.”

In the distance there was a rumble like a mountain clearing its throat, and Staff Sgt. Joe Garcia said it was a rocket. Nobody flinched. They kept up with the flip-flops.

Lewis had given out 70 pair in about three minutes. He was out. The swarm moved to the other Humvee.

“Most of these kids don’t understand,” Lewis said. “They see it,

it’s free, they want more. It’s not enough that we come.”

The children had Castillo pinned against his truck. A man in a white robe rose from his concrete slab and ordered the children to behave. This sort of worked for 20 seconds. Then the children were a mob again and the man threw rocks at them. He punched one big boy in the head, chasing him clear across the street.

Everyone got back inside the Humvees and pulled away.

“This will give me high blood pressure,” Spc. James Yaeger said.

“You still want kids?” Castillo chided.

Sheep with yellowed, matted coats plodded next to railroad tracks, trailed by a boy and girl. The boy and girl waved.

WHUMPH!

There was a dull subwoofer boom, then gunfire. But the children were safe and so was the Humvee. The noises came from far enough away.

The soldiers stopped in a clearing where rocket-shooters sometimes go.

Castillo, Yaeger and Spc. Michael Sullivan surveyed the pancake of terrain. There was no one there. A train engine sped by on the tracks, hauling no cars behind.

The radio chirps, coughs, then announces that the noise had been an attack on an Army convoy, one belonging to the 10th Mountain Division-another sector altogether.

Castillo remembered the municipal center bomb, how it moved a Bradley fighting vehicle 15 feet and vaporized the guard tower. How witnesses said the suicide bomber who drove the truck waved before he set off the 1,500 pounds of explosives. How the gate was gone by the time Castillo got there. How the fire set off the Bradley’s guns and rockets like a wicked Roman candle.

“The pucker factor was pretty high,” Castillo said. “That was surreal.”

Soldiers do these patrols every day, and more than once a day. Sometimes they find scenes of death. Sometimes, if the soldiers can tune out the distant booms, the mornings are slow and feel almost country lazy in the dust and sun.

That was like this morning, when the sector was all beige horizon. The only interruption was a brick triangle. One of the guys said it was a pyramid. Another said it was some religious thing.

It was a zigzag, stair-stepped but flat against the sky like a serrated knife. But its symmetry was off, like a car missing its two right wheels. At least one of the soldiers had been there before, up close.

“It’s halfway blown up,” he said.

E-mail reporter Ward Sanderson at sanderson@mail.strips.osd.mil

Wife of sgt. guilty of prisoner abuse: Officers also to blame

The Associated Press

BALTIMORE — The wife of an Army reservist sentenced to prison for abusing prisoners in Iraq said she knows her husband did wrong, but she also blames the abuse on higher-ranking officials who “sit behind the curtains.”

Martha Frederick, wife of Staff Sgt. Ivan “Chip” Frederick, said the eight-year sen-

tence he received Thursday in Baghdad for his role in the Abu Ghraib prison scandal will force her family to “endure hardships and many sacrifices.”

“The pain sets deeper yet in knowing that he serves these years not only for his actions or actions of a few reservists, but those included in the chain of command,” she wrote in an e-mail to The Associated Press.

Her 38-year-old husband, of Buckingham,

Va., received the stiffest punishment given so far in the scandal. But she questioned why her husband’s superiors were not punished for what she said was their complicity on the abuse. “I feel outrage that he and a few others will bear the weight for the actions of many,” she wrote.

“I do not see Chip as a good soldier gone bad but as a good soldier thrust into a no-win situation,” she wrote.



Staff Sgt. Ivan L. Frederick II, right, and his wife, Martha.

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More than 800 former soldiers fail to report

Army ordered them to report by Oct. 17

By ROBERT BURNS

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — More than 800 former soldiers have failed to comply with Army orders to get back in uniform and report for duty in Iraq or Afghanistan, the Army said Friday. That is more than one-third of the total who were told to report to a mobilization station by Oct. 17.

Three weeks ago the number stood at 622 amid talk that any who refused to report for duty could be declared Absent Without Leave.

Refusing to report for duty normally would lead to AWOL charges, but the Army is going out of its way to resolve these cases as quietly as possible.

In all, 1,466 members of the Individual Ready Reserve have re-

ceived mobilization orders since July 6, of which 2,288 were to have reported by Oct. 17. The others are to report in coming weeks and months.

Of those due to have reported by now, 1,445 have done so, but 843 have neither reported nor asked for a delay or exemption. That no-show rate of 37 percent is roughly in line with the one-third rate the Army had forecast when it began the mobilization to fill positions in regular and Reserve units. By comparison, the no-show total of 622 three weeks ago equated to a 35 percent rate.

Of the 843, the Army has had follow-up contact with 383 and is seeking to resolve their cases, according to figures made public Friday. For the 460 others, "We are still working to establish positive contact," the Army said. Some may not have received the mailed orders.

Members of the Individual Ready Reserve, or IRR, are rarely called to active duty. The last time was 1990, when nearly

Army captain sues government

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — An Army captain sued the government Friday to block his pending deployment to Iraq, saying he resigned in June after completing eight years of service in the Army and Army Reserve.

Jay J. Ferriola, 31, said in the lawsuit in U.S. District Court in Manhattan that Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld unlawfully continues to exercise control over him even though he properly resigned and was asked to turn in his equipment.

The New York resident has never received a written, official response to his resignation request, said the lawsuit, which asks a judge to process and approve the resignation.

A spokesman for the U.S. Attorney's office declined comment.

Ferriola this week received orders to report Monday for active duty with the 306th Military Police Battalion, which will leave for a year and a half "on a dangerous mission in Iraq," the lawsuit said.

It was not fear that prompted Ferriola to take legal action, but a desire to get on with his life, said his lawyer, Barry I. Slotnick.

Last month, a judge ruled that an Army reservist from North Carolina must report to active duty. Todd Parrish had argued he had fulfilled his military obligation and sent the Army a letter resigning his commission, but the judge agreed with the Army that he could be recalled to duty because he failed to sign a resignation line on a letter asking for an update on his personal information.

20,000 were mobilized. IRR members are people who were honorably discharged after finishing their active-duty tours, usually four to six years, but remained in the IRR for the rest of the

eight-year commitment they made when they joined the Army. They are separate from the reserve troops who are more routinely mobilized — the National Guard and Reserve.

The Army anticipated, based on past experience, that about one-third of the IRR people it called up would be disqualified for medical or other reasons. The trend so far bears that out.

Posted tape shows man beheaded

The Associated Press

CAIRO, Egypt — Iraqi militants beheaded a man, presumably Iraqi, who said he worked for the U.S. military in the northern city of Mosul for the past 10 months, according to a videotape posted on Islamic Web sites Saturday.

The killing was claimed by the Ansar al-Sunnah Army, a group that claimed responsibility

for beheading a Turkish driver and an Arab Shiite Muslim in two tapes that surfaced earlier this month and 12 Nepalese construction workers, whose killings were shown in a video posted Aug. 31.

The authenticity of the latest tape and the claim of responsibility could not be independently verified.

The tape posted Saturday showed a man wearing what appeared to be a U.S. mili-

tary-issue brown T-shirt. Speaking in Arabic, he identified himself as Seif Adnan Kanaan, saying he worked as a vehicle mechanic and beverage deliverer for U.S. forces based at Mosul airport.

The tape showed him with his hands tied behind his back, seated in front of three armed, masked militants. The militants were before a black banner with white Arabic script bearing the militant group's name.

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IN THE WORLD

Powell rebuffs North Korean request of 'reward' for talks

Secretary of State says six parties must continue dialogue

By GEORGE GEDDA

The Associated Press

TOKYO — U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell on Saturday rejected North Korean demands that the United States "reward" the communist country before it will agree to return to six-party discussions on its nuclear weapons programs.

Powell told reporters en route to Japan, that any proposals the North may have should be discussed as part of the negotiating process established more than a year ago.

"This is a six-party discussion, not a U.S.-North Korea discussion or an exchange of U.S. and North Korean talking points," Powell said.

He arrived in Tokyo Saturday evening shortly after several powerful earthquakes shook northwestern Japan. After separate meetings Sunday with Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi and Foreign Minister Nobutaka Machimura, Powell will travel to China and South Korea.

In a statement apparently timed for Powell's visit, a North Korean Foreign Ministry spokesman indicated that Pyongyang would agree to a new round of nuclear discussions only if the United States drops its "hostile policy" and consents to a "reward" for a nuclear freeze the North is proposing.

The unidentified spokesman was quoted by Pyongyang's official KCNA news agency.

He also said North Korea is insisting on discussing recent disclosures by South Korea that scientists had carried out nuclear experiments involving plutonium and uranium years ago. Washington has dismissed the experiments as insignificant and said they were of an academic nature.

The United States, China, South Korea, Japan and Russia have held three rounds of nuclear talks with North Korea. A new round was scheduled to have taken place in September in Beijing but North Korea declined to attend.

North Korea says it has several plutonium-based nuclear weapons and denies U.S. allegations that it has a secret uranium-based nuclear weapons program. Washington has said it would provide economic benefits to the North once Pyongyang has demonstrated a credible commitment to permanent and verifiable disarmament.

The visit could well be Powell's last to East Asia, falling as it does just days before the U.S. election. The timing of his trip could be intended as an attempt to show resolve

on one of the U.S. government's most difficult foreign policy issues. U.S. presidential candidate Sen. John Kerry contends that the government has mishandled the North Korean problem and should have embraced former President Bill Clinton's policy of direct talks with Pyongyang.

Some officials in Washington believe North Korea is biding its time on nuclear negotiations, sensing that Kerry might win the election and be easier to deal with than President George W. Bush, who has labeled North Korea part of an "axis of evil."

On Saturday, Powell dismissed North Korean concerns about hostile U.S. intent. "We have no intention of invading them, no plans to attack," he said.

But the North Korean news agency said upcoming joint U.S.-Japan exercises are a clear indication of U.S. hostility. The exercises are part of an international effort to block the smuggling of nuclear technology.

The North Korean statement said the maneuvers are an "undisguised" attempt to "blockade and strangle" the country.

Powell noted that the international anti-smuggling effort, known as the Proliferation Security Initiative, is endorsed by the U.N. Security Council.



U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell waves upon arrival Saturday at Haneda airport in Tokyo for the start of his East Asian tour. Powell intends to work out a strategy with Japan, China and South Korea on how to convince North Korea it is not under threat of attack.

A man looks at the body of a suicide attacker after grenade explosions hit Chicken Street in downtown Kabul on Saturday. The attacker killed himself and injured seven others.



Suicide attacker injures seven in Kabul

By STEPHEN GRAHAM

The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — A suicide attacker detonated grenades on a commercial street in downtown Kabul on Saturday, killing himself and wounding seven other people, including three foreign peacekeepers, officials said.

The man had about six grenades strapped to his body when they exploded on Chicken Street in the Afghan capital, said Kabul police chief Gen. Raba Jan.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack, which came two weeks after landmark presidential elections. The Taliban militia had threatened to disrupt the vote, but it passed off largely peacefully.

A said Kasi, shopkeeper Abdul Wahid, said one Western woman was among those hurt. He said none appeared to be seriously injured.

The attacker's body lay next to a sports utility vehicle bearing the insignia of the NATO security force. The engine of the vehicle was still running, but its rear window was blown out and its front tires were flat.

A spokesman for the NATO-led peacekeeping force that patrols the city, Lt. Col. Patrick Poulin, said three explo-

sions rocked the street at about 3:30 p.m., injuring seven people, including three peacekeepers and four civilians.

Two of the soldiers were slightly injured, and one "more seriously," he said. He did not give their nationalities, but peacekeepers at the scene said some of the injured were Norwegians.

Police chief Jan gave a different account. He said the injured included four Afghan civilians and two peacekeepers. Police and peacekeepers sealed off the street, the heart of Kabul's bustling downtown area, which is crisscrossed with convenience stores and souvenir shops popular with foreign aid workers and soldiers.

Meanwhile, a bomb exploded near a U.S. military truck in eastern Nangarhar province, damaging its windshield and injuring the hand of one Marine, military spokesman Maj. Mark McCann said.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for that attack, but security officials here have cast doubt on the willingness of Afghan militants to carry out suicide missions, suggesting al-Qaida may have been involved.

Saturday's attack came as Afghan interim leader Hamid Karzai appeared on the cusp of victory in the Oct. 9 election — the country's first direct vote for its leader after a quarter-century of conflict.

Boycott leads to small turnout in Kosovo vote

By GARENTINA KRAJA

The Associated Press

PRISTINA, Serbia-Montenegro — Only a handful of minority Serbs cast ballots in the early hours of Kosovo's general election Saturday, a vote seen as a test the depth of the province's ethnic divide and international attempts at reconciliation.

Most leaders of the province's Serb community called a boycott of the election, Kosovo's second since it came under U.N. and NATO rule in 1999, when a NATO air war ended former Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic's crackdown against independence-minded ethnic Albanians. The 1998-99 war killed an estimated 10,000 people, mainly ethnic Albanians.

Ultimate power remains with the U.N. mission. But about 1.3 million voters in Kosovo and some 108,000 Kosovo Serbs living in Serbia after fleeing in the aftermath of the conflict are eligible to elect representatives to a 120-seat assembly, which will elect a president and a government that holds limited authority.

Serbs cited a lack of security for their community of 100,000 still remaining in Kosovo when they called their boycott. In mid-March, in Kosovo's worst outbreak of ethnic violence since the war, mobs of ethnic Albanians attacked Serbs and their property in riots that killed 19 people and injured more than 900 others.

Ninety percent of the province's 2 million people are ethnic Albanians.

Seven hours into the polling, just a handful of Serbs had cast ballots. Overall turnout was some 30 percent at 2 p.m., said Adnan Merovci, the head of the body that manages the election.

In the predominantly Serb town of Zvecan, north of Pristina, Serb leaders attended a church service instead of voting, while Serbs in Grahovac, just east of Pristina, lit candles instead of going to the polling stations.

"We don't even notice that the elections are going on today," said Milan Ivanovic, one of the leaders in Zvecan. "The Serbs understand that these are not our elections and that they are not in our interest."



Photo courtesy of Las Vegas News Bureau

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STARS AND STRIPES
Your Hometown Newspaper

Rita Suessmuth, head of the U.S. election observation team for the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, speaks at a press conference in Vienna, Austria, on Friday on her way to the United States.

AP



Election monitors eye U.S.

European observers wary of e-voting, absentee ballots

BY SUSANNA LOOF
The Associated Press

VIENNA, Austria — Europe's leading election monitoring agency, known for keeping tabs on voting in trouble spots such as Belarus and the Balkans, is gearing up for a super-sized challenge: observing the U.S. presidential election.

The United States' reputation for smoothly run elections took a beating in 2000, and this is the first time the Organization for Security and Cooperation is sending observers for a U.S. presidential vote.

Some 100 international observers will monitor the Nov. 2 election in up to 20 states, including

Florida, where a recount of presidential ballots in 2000 exposed major problems in the voting system.

Although no one expects the U.S. vote to cause the same kind of headaches as the hotly contested Oct. 17 balloting in Belarus — which the OSCE said fell "significantly short" — there are fears problems may arise.

"I can imagine after all we heard during this last week that we will have problems with the [electronic voting] machines," said Rita Suessmuth, the head of the agency's U.S. election mission.

The group warned in a report last month that the failure of some touch-screen machines to print paper ballots for use during a possible recount could delay the election results and create controversy.

The report also faulted procedures for casting absentee and provisional ballots, cited reports of voter intimidation and disenfranchisement, and criticized moves by a few states to allow overseas and military voters to fax, rather than mail, completed ballots.

The Bush administration invited the OSCE to monitor the vote. A core group of observers arrived in the United States on Oct. 7, while others are to follow later, Suessmuth said. The OSCE refused to give the nationalities of the observers, but they must be from countries in the 55-member organization, which includes Belarus, Russia and Tajikistan.

The OSCE monitored the 2002 congressional elections in Florida and several other states.

Despite griping from some ranked Republicans, U.S. officials welcomed the group's mission to the 2004 election and said they appreciated its concerns, said Suessmuth, a former speaker of Germany's parliament.

"One answer was: 'We know [the problems] very well. We are still improving our system and we are in midst of a process and we are happy to have information on what works and what doesn't work and what's necessary for fair, free elections,'" she said.

But Suessmuth, addressing reporters Friday during a stopover in Vienna en route to the United States, acknowledged "that there is also criticism."

The OSCE mission has drawn stinging comments from some Republicans, among them Rep. Jeff Miller of Florida.

"What do foreign observers bring to American elections?" Miller wrote to constituents. "We are not a country oppressed by tyranny and aggression; we are a free nation built upon a foundation of citizen democracy."

The OSCE routinely observes elections in well-established democracies such as France, Spain and Britain, Suessmuth said. "It's very important that OSCE countries are opening themselves for controls. It creates transparency, it increases credibility," she said. OSCE observers have monitored more than 150 elections since the group began observing elections in the 1990s.



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Turkey denies violating air space

Greece claims fighter jets, ships crossed territorial boundaries

The Associated Press

ANKARA, Turkey — Turkey on Saturday dismissed Greek claims that Turkish fighter jets and ships violated Greece's airspace and territorial waters.

The two countries would continue working to improve ties, the Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

It came a day after Greek Defense Minister Spiros Spiliotis

warned that the alleged violations harmed efforts to improve relations between the two neighbors.

The Foreign Ministry denied that Turkey had violated international law and said there were no "unusual activities" by Turkish ships or aircraft in the Aegean Sea.

"Turkey attributes great importance to its relations with Greece," the statement said.

"The establishment and maintenance of an environment of trust in the Aegean is in the mutual interest of these relations and (Turkey) is showing a sincere effort to develop them further by working together."

Greece claims its national airspace extends to 10 miles but Turkey recognizes only 6 miles — the same distance as territorial waters — often leading to Greek accusations of violations.

The two NATO allies have long-standing territorial disputes in the Aegean and have nearly gone to war three times since 1974.

But relations between the two countries have been improving in recent years, and Greece supports Turkey's bid to join the European Union.

Turkey hopes that EU leaders meeting in December will agree to begin membership talks with Turkey next year.

Italy transport strike

ROME — Commuters were left stranded across Italy on Friday as a local transport strike brought many buses, trains and subways to a halt.

The daylong strike involved all major cities, and all three of Italy's major trade unions took part. In Rome around 85 percent of local transport workers walked off the job, while in Naples almost all workers were striking, according to news agency ANSA.

Some commuters chose to walk or bicycle to work, while many who chose cars got stuck in gridlocked traffic. Labor unions said they would guarantee some service during the morning and evening rush hours.

The workers are pushing for the renewal of contracts that expired last year.

No female gondolier yet

ROME — A woman who tried to become Venice's first female gondolier has flunked the test for a third time.

Alexandra Hai successfully passed a written exam, but her rowing techniques didn't meet the demanding requirements, the testing institute said Friday. "I am sorry for her," said Franco Vianello Moro, president of Ente Gondola, the institute responsible for hiring new gondoliers.

"She showed so much passion and love, she would have deserved it," Hai told the ANSA news agency that she planned to give up.

"It's useless," she was quoted as saying. "The first female gondolier in Venice will be someone else."

Conflicting reports put Hai's nationality as American or German.

Venice has a total of 425 gondoliers, all of them Italian men.

From The Associated Press

Italian president Ciampi gets pacemaker

The Associated Press

ROME — Italian President Carlo Azeglio Ciampi underwent surgery to install a pacemaker on Saturday, his office said.

The 83-year-old former premier is expected back at work at the beginning of the week, his office said in a statement.

He was reported in "good spirits" when he talked to colleagues after the operation, the ANSA news agency said.

The surgery, which was carried out with local anesthetic, had been set in advance for Saturday because Ciampi had no major commitments in the coming days, ANSA

Leader should be back to work at beginning of next week

said. On Friday, Ciampi is expected to attend Friday's Rome signing ceremony for a proposed European constitution.

The presidential post is largely ceremonial in Italy, and Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi has the executive powers.

Berlusconi sent "affectionate best wishes, both on a personal level and from the government," his office said.

Pope John Paul II spoke by phone with Ciampi and wished him well, papal spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls said.

Ciampi, an internationally respected banker and former premier from 1993 to 1994, won Italy's presidency in 1999 with broad support from both left and right — a rare show of unity.

A longtime central bank governor and political independent, Ciampi polished an international reputation as a straight arrow in the 1990s, single-mindedly overseeing Italy's surprise qualification for the debut of Europe's common currency, the euro.

He served as governor of Italy's central bank from 1979-1993 and treasury minister from 1996 to 1999.

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IN THE STATES

Bush looks to shore up base in Florida trip

BY DEB RIECHMANN

The Associated Press

FORT MYERS, Fla. — President Bush said Saturday that Sen. John Kerry must be suffering from "election amnesia" because he has forgotten that he once viewed Saddam Hussein as a threat to America.

After voting to authorize force against the former Iraqi leader, after calling it the right decision when the Bush administration sent troops into Iraq, Kerry now calls the conflict the "wrong war," Bush said.

"Sen. Kerry seems to have forgotten all that as his position has evolved during the course of the campaign," Bush said at the first stop on a hectic day of campaigning in a state critical for both campaigns.

A little more than a week before Election Day, Bush is banking on his base here to win Florida's 27 electoral votes — equal to Ohio and Iowa combined. Marine One will fly in and out of four cities — all in areas that voted for Bush by wide margins in 2000.

First was City of Palms Park. As music blared from stadium loudspeakers, the presidential helicopter, carrying Bush, his brother, Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, and first lady Laura Bush, landed in left field, dusting the crowd with dirt from the warming track.

"The choice in this election could not be clearer," Bush said from a podium set up on second base. "You cannot lead our nation to the decisive victory on which the security of every American

family depends if you do not see the true dangers of the post-Sept. 11 world."

The Kerry campaign says Bush's weekend trip here to fire-up supporters shows that he's no longer trying to woo independents and conservative Democrats in the state. Outside the stadium, Kerry supporters shouted "No more wars!" and waved signs that said "Fire the liar."

All summer, hurricanes that slammed this critical election state restricted Bush to consoling residents and doling out federal storm aid. Bush now is making up for lost time, hoping to avoid a repeat of 2000 when he won the state by just 537 votes.

From Fort Myers and then Lakeland on the western side of the state, Bush moves to Melbourne on the east coast.



President Bush shakes hands with supporters after speaking at a campaign rally Saturday at the City of Palms Park in Fort Myers, Fla.



Democratic Presidential candidate Sen. John Kerry waves to the crowd as confetti drops around him at a rally held Friday at the Lawlor Event Center at the University of Nevada-Reno.

Kerry takes aim at Bush over terrorism 'blindness'

BY MARY DALRYMPLE

The Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — Democrat John Kerry has taken to summarizing the presidential fight with a line that's both a dig at his opponent and an appeal to undecided voters.

"A president," Kerry says, "has to be able to do more than one thing at the same time."

The line is intended for voters with questions about President Bush's performance in office who still hesitate to back Kerry, adviser Mike McCurry said.

It jobs at the president's singular focus on terrorism and security as the only things at issue in the presidential campaign, he said.

"The argument is that the singular preoccupation with eradicating evil-doing in the world... it creates blindness that allow you to miss the other things that are important to the American people," McCurry said.

McCurry argues that Kerry can be a "president who can simultaneously conduct an aggressive war on terror but not drop the ball on jobs and health care."

Democrats repeatedly charge

Kerry on women

WASHINGTON — Democrat John Kerry accused the president of ignoring the pressures building on working women and promised to alleviate some of the economic stress in his party's weekly radio address Saturday.

"George Bush likes to talk about how being president is 'hard work,'" he said. "Well, before he complains about his job, he ought to spend a day with the women who are struggling hard to get by."

Kerry said a combination of low wages and high costs for food, prescription drugs and gasoline put financial pressure on women.

From The Associated Press

that the president ignored or mis-handled the economy, education and health care. Kerry reminds voters at every turn that the economy lost jobs under Bush's watch and says more people lost their health care and slipped into poverty during his term.

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Ready for recount edux?

E-ballot concerns anger Florida voters, lawmakers

BY RACHEL KONRAD

The Associated Press

DELRAY BEACH, Fla. — Edw. Bitet fought in World War II, built affordable housing for veterans and taught sixth grade. When the Long Island native retired to Florida, he fulfilled another civic duty by becoming a poll worker.

But Bitet, 77, isn't volunteering this year — he says he doesn't trust Palm Beach County's electronic voting machines. He walked out of a county demonstration of touch-screen terminals convinced that software bugs could wreak havoc on Nov. 2.

"We lost an election four years ago because they fooled around

with the paper ballots and couldn't recount them," said Bitet, a Democrat. "Now we're moving to a system without paper, and they won't even have the ballots to recount. I can't be a part of this."

With polls showing nearly equal numbers of Florida voters for President Bush and Sen. John Kerry, the election's outcome may again hinge on a Florida recount.

And the more that Floridians learn about how voting machines work, the more they question whether the 15 counties with paperless voting systems can accurately count and recount votes.

Problems in those counties — home to just over half the registered voters in the crucial swing

state — could delay the results for days or weeks, and even force the courts to step in again and choose the next president.

More than 1.5 million people have registered to vote in Florida since the 2000 election, for a total of more than 10.3 million eligible to vote this year, state officials say.

Given Florida's botched election in 2000, when the Supreme Court halted a recount after 36 days and handed a 537-vote victory to Bush, political tension is palpable in the Sunshine State.

If this proves to be another ultra-close vote, many critics of electronic balloting — including the many Democrats who believe the 2000 election was stolen — say they'll take to the streets.

"I was angry last time. This time it'd be quadruple the anger," said Francois Jean, 27, whose ramshackle ranch house in Miami's Little Haiti neighborhood is festooned with Kerry placards.

"The system we were supposed to believe in failed us — like we didn't even vote, like we were aliens from outer space who didn't count."

David Niven, a political science professor at Florida Atlantic University, expects massive demonstrations if exit polling is close and lawsuits and technical problems overshadow a clear victory.

"I don't know if there will be rioting in the streets with pitch forks and torches — after all, many of these people are 75 years old," Niven said. "But it's fair to say that their level of anger will grow exponentially from four years ago."

This time, the outrage wouldn't be over dampled, pregnant or hanging chads; the state banned the maligned punch cards after 2000. Instead, it would almost certainly be directed at those who decided on the touch-screen machines.

Computer scientists, practically as a profession, don't trust them — not without a range of safeguards that aren't in place for this election. They say the touch screens now in use could alter or delete votes — and that without paper copies, voters will never know if their votes counted.

Add Florida's bitter partisan politics to the stew of voting technology uncertainty and the worries that loom largest aren't about software bugs or hardware glitches but rather the potential for electoral shenanigans.

It's no surprise, then, that black voters in the state are among the most distrustful of e-voting. They've experienced a disproportionate number of problems in elections — from felon voter purges that included non-convicts to early voting polling stations set up miles away from the nearest black neighborhood.

Secretary of State Glenda Hood — Florida's top elections official



An unidentified woman studies the electronic voting machine during an Oct. 13 demonstration in Delray Beach, Fla.

— and other top Republicans accuse those who challenge the touch-screen machines' reliability of irrationally eroding Americans' faith in democracy. They insist that touch screens are as reliable as paper ballots, with Gov. Jeb Bush maintaining that e-voting critics have bought into "conspiracy theories" and lost their common sense.

The American Civil Liberties Union and other advocacy groups, meanwhile, have sued the state, arguing for better recount guidelines.

U.S. Rep. Robert Wexler, a Boca Raton Democrat, sued and demanded that all counties produce paper records.

In testimony this past week in Fort Lauderdale, the attorney for county elections chiefs said Wexler was playing politics, trying to "squeeze one more vote out" and "regress" to the confusing recounts of the 2000 election.

Florida law requires a manual recount in any race with a victory margin of one-quarter of 1 percent or less. In April, Hood issued an order prohibiting manual recounts on touch screens. The rule was struck down after the ACLU suit. On Oct. 15, exasperated officials issued new guidelines for recounting virtual votes.

The rules require election administrators to install updated software that can search electronic ballot records and tally the

number of ballots in which not every race was voted on.

County election supervisors must print out a detailed record of all incomplete ballots to see if they match the number of incomplete ballots the computer said existed when polls closed.

If the numbers don't match, supervisors will recount up to two more times.

It's unclear what would happen if thousands of votes went missing, but election officials insist the safeguards are adequate — for the initial counts and for recounts.

"These systems go through rigorous tests, and before each and every election they are checked again," said Hood spokeswoman Alia Faraj. "When the tests are completed, they're sealed and secured, and the seal is only broken on election day. The systems are working the way they're supposed to."

But computer scientists say bugs or hardware failures could alter or erase votes, causing the machines to record bogus data even before a voter touches the screen.

"We have a saying in computer science: Garbage in, garbage out," said Avi Rubin, a Johns Hopkins University computer scientist and expert on electronic voting. "If you have a machine with a bug or glitch, printing out the incorrect votes is an exercise in futility and an absolute waste of time."

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Bush signs tax bill aimed to aid manufacturers

Measure repeals corporate break that prompted retaliatory tariffs on U.S. exports

BY PETE YOST
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush showed \$136 billion in new tax breaks on businesses, farmers and other groups Friday, quietly signing the most sweeping rewrite of corporate tax law in nearly two decades. Announcing the action without fanfare aboard Air Force One, the White House said the new law is good for America's workers because it will help create jobs here at home.

The election-year measure is intended to end a bitter trade war with Europe and supporters said it provides critical assistance to beleaguered manufacturers who have suffered 2.7 million lost jobs over the past four years.

The legislation also includes about \$10 billion in assistance for tobacco farmers.

Though the legislation provides new tax breaks, Congress' Joint Committee on Taxation says it has no impact on the deficit because it also closes corporate tax loopholes and repeals export subsidies.

Opponents disagree, saying it will swell the nation's huge budget deficit with a massive giveaway that will reward multinational companies that move jobs overseas and add to the complexity of the tax system.

The centerpiece of the tax legislation is \$76.5 billion in new tax relief for the battered manufacturing sector. Manufacturing in the law is broadly defined to include not just factories but also oil and gas producers, engineering, construction and architectural firms and large farming operations.

John Kerry's presidential campaign says

the assertion that the new law is revenue-neutral is bogus because many of the tax breaks are for only one or two years and probably will be extended by Congress, while revenue-saving efforts are for 10 years.

The law will "shut down corporate tax abuses — without increasing the federal deficit," insisted House Ways and Means Committee chairman Bill Thomas, R-Calif.

There was no signing ceremony. "This legislation will end the European sanctions on American exports, and it will help promote the competitiveness of American manufacturers and other job creators, and help create jobs here in America," White House spokesman Scott McClellan said on the campaign trail in Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

Kerry missed the vote on the corporate tax breaks.

The original purpose for the legislation was to repeal a \$5 billion annual tax break provided to American exporters that was ruled illegal by the Geneva-based World Trade Organization. Repeal of the tax break was needed to lift retaliatory tariffs on more than 1,600 American manufactured products and farm goods exported to Europe. The tariffs now stand at 12 percent and are rising by 1 percentage point a month.

The measure is the most sweeping overhaul of corporate tax law since 1986. It replaces a 10-year, \$49.2 billion export tax break with \$136 billion in new tax breaks for a wide array of groups from farmers, fishermen and bow and arrow hunters to some of America's largest corporations. Among the beneficiaries: native Alaskan whalers, importers of Chinese ceiling fans and NASCAR race track owners.

Policy on scannable passports for entry to States starts Tuesday

Travelers allowed one-time exemption

BY LESLIE MILLER
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Millions of visitors from Japan, Australia, New Zealand, Singapore and much of Europe are getting a temporary reprieve from a new U.S. requirement that they carry passports that can be read by scanning machines.

All were supposed to have the passports starting Tuesday. But the Homeland Security Department announced Friday that visitors from those countries who haven't gotten the new passports will be granted a one-time exemption. Anyone granted an exemption will be notified that if they don't have a new passport the next time they visit, they may be refused entry.

Border and Transportation Security Undersecretary Asa Hutchinson said the new policy will help make sure that people's first experience in the United States is positive. He said the rule will be reviewed after six months.

"These are prudent steps to ease travelers into these new documentation requirements," he said. The new "machine-readable" passports have printed biographical data and a photograph that meet international standards and can be read by an optical scanner. Hutchinson said such passports minimize the chances of someone using another person's passport to gain entry to the country.

The USA Patriot Act required people from the 27 "visa-waiver" countries to have machine-readable passports by Oct. 1, 2003. Travelers from visa-waiver countries are allowed into the United States for up to 90 days for business or pleasure using a passport.

Many countries couldn't meet the deadline for the new passports, so it was extended to Tuesday.

Those granted an exemption will have their passports stamped to indicate they've been given the one-time pass. They'll also receive a letter explaining the new U.S. entry requirements. The deadline applies to people from: Australia, Austria, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Monaco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, San Marino, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the U.K.



Homeland Security Undersecretary Asa Hutchinson announces Friday in Washington that starting Tuesday, travelers without visas must have passports that can be read by a scanning machine to be admitted into the United States. The rule applies to people from 21 so-called visa-waiver countries, including Japan, Australia and much of Europe.

AP

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Crash survivor talks of 'second chance'

BY ERIN VAN BRONKHORST
The Associated Press

SEATTLE — Matthew Ramige knew immediately how lucky he was in the moments after the small plane he was riding in crashed into the Montana wilderness a month ago.

And to hear him tell it, he was just as lucky that he wasn't the only one to still be alive.

Two people onboard were killed. Two others survived — including 23-year-old Jodee Hogg, who Ramige said helped him escape from the smoldering wreckage.

"My right boot was lodged on something, and her strength jostled me free and if it weren't for her I don't know if I could have gotten out of the plane by myself," he said Wednesday, a month after the Sept. 20 crash near Glacier National Park, where the Forest Service workers were being ferried to conduct an annual vegetation inventory and repair telecommunication facilities.

Considering where they were, cheating death on impact was just the beginning of Ramige's struggle to survive.

Looking down, Ramige saw that his hands were badly burned and his clothing was charred and in tatters. His back was

broken — a compression fracture. Hogg had suffered a sprained foot and back.

"I was just glad that I survived and amazed that I had survived," he said. "It's like being given a second chance, and gaining a new perspective on life."

That first snowy, windy night, Hogg and passenger Ken Good, who also made it out of the plane, made a "Matt sandwich," holding him to protect him, he said. Good was a big man and his body provided cover for all of them, Ramige said.

By the next morning, Good was dead — and no rescuers had arrived.

But there was another stroke of luck: Despite his injuries, Ramige could still walk. The 30-year-old donned the dead man's flight jacket and the two began their hike out of Montana's rugged Great Bear-Bear Marshall Wilderness Complex. Ground crews reached the burned wreckage later that day but found no signs of the survivors and believed all aboard had perished.

Along the way, Ramige had to lie awkwardly on his stomach to drink water from streams, then somehow get back up. When he wanted nothing more than to stop and rest, Ramige says Hogg kept him going.

Ramige's family, meanwhile, had been told by authorities that he was certainly



Matthew Ramige, of Jackson Hole, Wyo., looks around during a news conference on Wednesday at Harborview Medical Center in Seattle, where he spoke about surviving a small plane crash.

dead. Relatives had even begun making funeral preparations while he and Hogg were traveling some three to five miles over rough terrain, a painful journey that would take them 29 hours.

"The first real recognition that we were going to make it was when we heard a train — there's Amtrak that goes through there along Highway 2 — and we knew basically where we were and that it was only a few miles to go," he said.

After they flagged down motorists, Ramige was taken by helicopter to a hospi-

tal in Kalispell, Mont., and then transferred to Harborview in Seattle, the region's burn center.

Walking stiffly, Ramige wore a back brace and treatment gloves Wednesday, five days after being released. He underwent two skin-graft surgeries for burns on his chest, right thigh and right hand during his 25-day hospital stay.

The Jackson, Wyo., native will travel to Montana and then to his mother's home in Albany, N.Y., to complete his recovery.

Home drug test kits get mixed results for parents

BY JULIE MCCORMICK

Scraps Howard News Service
Kendra Wetterland didn't mind

all that much when her mom decided to start testing her for pot smoking with a home test kit from a store.

"I didn't understand why she would do that if she knew I was using, but it showed she cared," said 17-year-old son of Gig Harbor, Wash.

Trouble was, Kendra was smok-

ing pot regularly at the time, but the tests her mother administered twice a month never gave a positive result.

Kendra is now in treatment for methamphetamine use.

Home drug testing kits became available to parents after the Food and Drug Administration approved them six years ago and have proved popular not only at retailers but through scores of sites on the Internet.

They are even being sold to parents by police departments in some cities.

But recently, a new study of the kits available online concluded that they can be unreliable. Plus, many don't offer concerned parents enough information to accurately administer a test. And most overly emphasize the unproven claim that regular testing by parents offers a child an excuse to give peers who pressure them to try drugs, researchers at Children's Hospital in Boston reported.

"Laboratory testing for drugs of abuse is a technically challenging procedure, even for medical professionals," wrote the researchers. They also found information in some kits inconsistent and confusing about what drugs they were intended to detect.

"In addition, none of the sites described the different stages of drug use or gave parents insight into the different treatment needs for an experimental user versus a teen with a diagnosis of abuse or dependency," they wrote.

Most important, parents who use home drug tests can jeopardize

the vital trust relationship with their child, the researchers warned.

Only one kit purveyor they surveyed warned parents against forcing children to submit to tests, a practice professionals dismiss as invasive and counterproductive.

Some who sell drug test kits over the Internet also sell the means to outsmart them, researchers found.

Parents who have dealt with drug use by their children give mixed reviews to the idea of home drug testing.

Without the benefit of the researchers' insights, some believe it could be an aid to parents.

"I think the home tests are good. It at least gives you a starting point," said Robert Gardner, whose 15-year-old son, Chris Kurtz, started treatment after confessing his marijuana dependency.

Gardner did not test Chris for drugs, but learned of his problem after Chris started getting into trouble with the law and missing school.

Chris said he wouldn't have agreed to testing even if his parents had proposed it.

"I wouldn't do it because I think at the point I was using, I wasn't ready to admit something needed to be done," he said.

And his parents probably would have tried it if they had known, he said, just to avoid a fight.

Kathy Edwards of Bainbridge Island, the mother of adult children and stepchildren who have had drug problems, said testing would have been senseless "because I knew they were using."

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Tobacco companies feeling sales pinch

BY NANCY ZUCKERBROD

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Tobacco companies are spending more than ever to market cigarettes but sales still are falling, according to a government study released Friday.

The six largest cigarette makers spent a record \$12.5 billion on advertising and promotions in 2002, the last year for which data is available, according to the Federal Trade Commission study.

That was an 11 percent increase from 2001, but U.S. sales fell about 5.5 percent to 376 billion cigarettes.

The largest chunk of the companies' marketing budgets were for discounts passed on to retailers and wholesalers, who then were expected to reduce cigarette prices for consumers. The companies spent near-

ly \$8 billion on such discounts, or about 63 percent of their total advertising and marketing expenditures.

The second-largest category was for promotional allowances that included paying retailers for prime shelf space. That cost the companies about \$1.3 billion, according to the report.

Matthew Myers, president of the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, said efforts by the companies to lower their prices and secure prime shelf space are aimed at hooking young people.

"The tobacco industry knows that the most price-sensitive population is children," Myers said. And he said young people are more apt to be influenced by shelf placement.

"If you're a 40-year-old Camel smoker,

you're going to smoke Camel whether it's under the shelf or at eye level," Myers said.

David Howard, a spokesman for No. 2 cigarette maker, Reynolds American Inc., said his company is trying to win over adults, not kids.

"Our efforts are to communicate with and gain the business of adults who choose to smoke," Howard said. "It's against the law in all 50 states to sell to people who are underage."

Myers contended the tobacco industry knows those laws are loosely enforced and uses marketing to try to entice kids to start smoking.

"The unfortunate fact is that every day 2,000 kids light up for the first time," he said.

Howard said adult smokers are sensitive

to prices, too, especially in recent years as cigarettes have become more expensive due to huge tax increases that have pushed prices to above 56¢ per pack in many places. Howard said leading companies are having to lower prices to compete with deeply discounted brands that have been gaining market share.

Money spent for traditional advertising, such as in magazines and newspapers, declined again in 2002, the report found. The industry spent about \$13.2 billion on that kind of advertising in 2002, compared with about \$25.4 billion five years earlier in 1997.

The decline is the result of the tobacco companies' \$246 billion settlement with states in 1998 against costs of smoking-related illnesses. The settlement further restricted cigarette advertising, which already was barred from TV and radio.

'Junior' Gotti says he's done with mob after years in prison

BY LARRY MCSHANE

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Sixteen years after joining his infamous dad in the family business, John "Junior" Gotti now says he's done with the mob. Done with two of his jailed uncles. And undone by thoughts of his children growing up without him.

Gotti, who turned 40 behind bars in February, faced a mid-life mob crisis over the past 18 months — with many of his musings captured on tape during jailhouse conversations with family and friends. The second-generation Mafiosi takes a long look back, and doesn't always appreciate the view.

"I haven't bothered with them in six years," Gotti said of his old mob associates during one session in October 2003. "Believe me, I like it better that way. I sleep better ... I just want to do my time, go home and go fishing."

That won't happen soon. Two months short of finishing his 1999 racketeering sentence, Gotti was indicted again this summer for allegedly ordering a hit on talk radio host Curtis Sliwa and others charges.

He remains jailed without bail pending trial.

But pages and pages of transcripts and court papers offer a fascinating glimpse of Junior, a kid who blindly followed his father — the infamous "Teflon Don," John Gotti — into what mobsters refer to as "The Life." Gotti, himself the father of five, appears disillusioned and disgusted.

"Listen, a jacket, a pair of shoes, a car, don't make a man," Gotti says the October meeting with two friends. "My father's suits didn't make him. He was what he was, under the suits. Naked, he was what he was. ... You're either a man or you're not."

Gotti, considering the current crop of mobsters, offers a one-word dismissal: "Punks."

But the one-time mob boss' thoughts ranged beyond the Mafia's fortunes, as he considered a

variety of issues social and personal.

■ On euthanasia: "I believe Dr. Kevorkian. I agree with that."

■ On getting older: "Every decade after you turn 30 years old, your testosterone falls 10 percent."

■ On right and wrong: "Tell the [expletive] truth, that's all I ever ask. ... If I put a baseball bat over somebody's head, say it — no problem."

As a federal prisoner, Gotti is aware that his conversations are all recorded. Defense attorneys suggested the discussions signaled a new outlook. But prosecutors, citing other excerpts involving alleged illegal business, said the tapes showed "a bitter, angry and desperate man who knows no other life than the mob."

One tape caught Gotti wishing that he could have coached his son's football team instead of going to jail five years ago. Gotti also acknowledged that his father — a convicted murderer and racketeer who died behind bars two years ago — was the motivation behind his own organized crime career.

"If it wasn't for my father, I would have walked away many, many years ago," Gotti says. "I knew sooner or later I'd have to."

As for his own children, including teenage son Frank, Gotti wants them out of old "family" business: "Gotta keep your kids away. Everybody's kids away."

It didn't work out that way for Gotti, who was 24 when he became a Gambino family made man in a Christmas 1988 ceremony at his dad's Little Italy hideaway, the Ravente Social Club.

Although the younger Gotti was generally derided as an unqualified hothead, he assumed the family's leadership after his father was jailed in 1992. Gotti said he handled the job much better than others did.

"Nobody ever got pinched ... nobody ever got harmed when I was in charge," he boasted.

But the family soon disintegrated into bitter internecine feuds, with young Gotti heading to jail

and his uncle Peter assuming the family's leadership. Another uncle, Richie, moved up the ladder as well — but their nephew now expressed only disdain for the pair.



John A. "Junior" Gotti leaves federal court in White Plains, N.Y., on Feb. 11, 1999. Sixteen years after joining his infamous dad in the family business, "Junior" Gotti now says he's done with the mob.

AP



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Maya Schenk, 2, from Nepal, clutches a U.S. flag as she is guided by her adopted mother, Pamela Schenk, and adopted grandmother, Joan Schenk, both of Rochester, N.Y., before accepting her certificate of U.S. citizenship in Buffalo, N.Y., on Friday.

Project speeds documentation process for foreign-born kids

BY CAROLYN THOMPSON

The Associated Press

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Emma Acebo, a 6-month-old girl who was born in Colombia, has been an American citizen since her adoptive parents brought her to New York last month.

But without proof of citizenship, foreign-born children cannot receive things like Social Security cards or passports. Emma's parents wouldn't even bring her to nearby Canada for fear that they would have trouble bringing her back to the United States.

"We would have been a little nervous," said Michele Acebo of Ontario, N.Y.

But on Friday, Emma received

her citizenship papers during a celebration of the Child Citizenship Act Project, launched in January to speed documents to children while eliminating paperwork for parents.

Although the 2000 Child Citizenship Act made all foreign-born children U.S. citizens at the time of their adoption, parents still had to submit an application for citizenship documents and wait up to 18 months for it to be processed.

The new project automatically delivers citizenship certificates to adopted children within 45 days of their arrival in the United States.

Americans adopted 21,100 children from other countries during the 12 months ending Sept. 30, 2002, government statistics show.

The most foreign-born children came from China (6,062), followed by Russia (4,904), Guatemala (2,361), Korea (1,713) and Ukraine (1,093).

The State Department is completing rules to certify agencies specializing in foreign adoptions, required under a treaty signed by some 190 countries. Countries agree to follow certain regulations on international adoptions, such as making sure the child to be adopted is an orphan or abandoned by parents, and that adults wishing to adopt have been checked out by their home countries.

State Department spokesman Stuart Patt has said all of the U.S. rules needed under the treaty should be completed in 2005.

More than 11,500 citizenships have been processed through the Child Citizenship Act Project's Buffalo headquarters so far this year.

"Before, the process was fragmented throughout the country in a way that we were having inconsistent delivery of documentation," said Eduardo Aguirre, director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, as dozens of small new citizens dug into cake after the ceremony.

Aguirre said the process was concentrated in Buffalo after determining the office seemed most efficient at handling the paperwork.

"Parents are concerned about the meticulous little things, about documentation, background, et cetera," Aguirre said. "So if a document takes 45 days or 90 days it's a huge difference."

Aside from the legal importance, the documents give parents a sense of assurance that the child is here for good.

"It's wonderful," said Debbie Lagree of Williamsview, showing the certificates to her 5- and 7-year-old Colombian-born daughters received several months after their arrival in the country as babies.

"It shows we've met all the criteria for these children to be citizens of the United States."

Bad storm in Sierras 'just snuck up on us'

Family recounts surviving sudden snow

The Associated Press

COURTRIGHT RESERVOIR, Calif. — As an experienced backpacker, Frank Horath knew to check the weather forecast before leaving on an overnight hike with family members to an alpine lake in the Sierra National Forest.

The forecast said weather would be clear in the mountains through the weekend, with a storm moving in Monday. They would be home well before then, he thought.

As Horath, his brother-in-law and their sons huddled in their camp Saturday night at nearly 9,900 feet on the shores of Rae Lake, it became clear the forecast had been wrong. The storm was early — and it was worse than they ever imagined.

They awoke Sunday morning, Oct. 17, to six inches of fresh snow. Watching more snow fall constantly, they knew they were trapped.

"It just snuck up on us," Horath said.

By the time the storm let up Wednesday night, it had dumped four feet of snow at the Sierra Nevada's highest elevations and shipped the mountains with 50 mph wind gusts. It stranded groups of backpackers and rock climbers from Yosemite National Park south to Mount Whitney, setting in motion a series of dramatic high-elevation rescues.

It was warm and dry when Horath, a 45-year-old financial adviser, set out on the 13-mile trail to Rae Lake with his 16-year-old son, Dominic, his brother-in-law, 47-year-old Paul Bargetto, and Bargetto's 20-year-old son Michael.

Expecting clear weather, they packed lightly. So once the storm hit and it became clear they were stranded, the group decided that staying put was their only option.

Horath said thoughts soon turned to how they could survive for a week or more.

They were forced into one tent after the other began leaking, and zipped their sleeping bags together for warmth. Even then, it was a struggle to stay warm and dry.

They rationed their food: five peanuts each for breakfast, a bit of oatmeal for lunch, a scoop of peanut butter for dinner.

They lifted each other's spirits with humor and faith. The two fathers, however, had their moments of doubt.

Horath began speaking to his son about the possibility of not making it out alive, and Michael Bargetto told him to stop.

"We had no way of knowing that anybody was even in this," Horath said. "It was a real feeling of loneliness."

But when the Horaths and Bargettos awoke Thursday to a brilliantly cloudless sky, they knew they would be soon be rescued.

U.S. limits Chinese sock imports in trade dispute

BY HARRY DUNPHY

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Bush administration decided Friday that it will impose a quota on sock imports from China — the latest round of an increasingly bitter trade dispute with Beijing — showing a willingness to protect American workers ahead of the election.

Trade has become a hot issue on the campaign trail with President Bush, an unrepentant free trader, accusing his Democratic opponent John Kerry of being an "economic isolationist." Kerry has countered that Bush has not done enough to protect American workers from unfair foreign competition.

The trade deficit with China hit an all-time high for any country of \$124 billion last year and is running at an even higher \$140 billion rate this year.

Seeking to reduce the deficit, the Bush administration has been pushing China to ease its pegged currency system. American manufacturers say the system, which keeps the yuan as much as 40 percent undervalued, gives Chinese products a tremendous competitive advantage.

The interagency Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements, chaired by the Commerce Department, ruled that sock imports from China are disrupting the U.S. market and there is a risk of further disruption. The committee will seek talks with China to try to ease or avoid any disruption.

Once consultations are sought, the department said, "a quota will be put in place to limit U.S. imports of socks from China" to an increase between 6 percent and 7.5 percent over current import levels, a far smaller increase than has occurred in recent years.

"The United States will make every effort to reach a mutually satisfactory agreement with the Government of China to ease or avoid the disruption in the U.S. market within 90 days of such a request," the department said.

If talks fail, the quota will remain in effect for a year, the department said.

U.S. manufacturers have been concerned they could be ruined by a flood of low-cost socks from China as import quotas end at the end of the year. So they led an industry call last summer for the administration to help.



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Sunday Horoscope

Renowned psychoanalyst Carl Jung famously expressed the belief that the subconscious mind is influenced by the planet Neptune. So today, the planet of dreams goes direct. Though Neptune will be in shadow until early February, the fog that seems to hang between the world we envision and the world that actually is will begin to lift.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Oct. 24): Your environment greatly affects your actions this year, so make sure to put yourself in situations with people you admire. New friends could net you a prime position and more money to boot, so keep relations strong by taking care of them, remembering birthdays and calling out often. Lucky love signs are Aquarius and Capricorn.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). There's a drama in the morning that keeps us all on our toes! It's nice to think that people around you care enough to get excited when things don't go their way. Adaptations will be, and by evening, peace is restored.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). To get romantic fires burning again, spend time with a partner doing something you both have never tried before. Opportunities may go unrecruited until you point them out. Everyone is interested in what you have to offer.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Whemiver your idea is, follow through. This gives you the opportunity to correct and learn from your mistakes. Don't let social norms limit you. You might do something offbeat, like sign up for a reality TV show.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Get on with life! It is better to risk emotionally now than to play it safe in limbo for another month. An uninvolved party is invaluable for solving out problems. Someone knows your secret and will never tell.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). New situations bring out your best, but they also make you feel vulnerable.

Congratulate yourself for stretching. You're the kind of brave person who will end up teaching everyone else how to grow up.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Is perception reality? The fact that others don't see a problem doesn't mean it isn't there for you, but it does mean that it isn't there for them. Stressful situations can be made unstressful if you ask for more help. Keep a cool head.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Money comes through creative thought. Believe it, and it will come your way. You can take your time to choose, but make a decision by the end of the day. New love is found close to home.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). There's big news from school in your inner circle. You can celebrate with the best of them, so you'll be one of the first to be included. Loved ones are feeling really tonight. Be sure to indulge them.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You have no enemies. Try to see people as doing their best with the resources they have. A partner requires your best efforts, so stay present and focused on the numerous tasks the two of you share.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Live and love by your principles. Your integrity doesn't go unnoticed. Powerful friends want your assistance. You may feel obligated, but bestow a favor only if you are genuinely moved to do so.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). A relationship may be more significant to the other person than it is to you right now. A wake-up call will make you realize how others depend on you and how your attitude matters immensely.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). If you're well informed, you'll make lucky arrangements now. Keep others in your word with gentle reminders. Tonight is so comfortable. Accept the happiness you find; don't overanalyze it.

Creators Syndicate

To our readers

For the past decade, this column has been written by Joyce Jillion and Holiday Mathis. Ms. Jillion passed away on Oct. 1. Because Ms. Jillion and Ms. Mathis wrote in advance, columns they prepared will run through Nov. 6. Beginning Nov. 7, the horoscopes will be renamed "Horoscopes by Holiday" and will be authored by Ms. Mathis.

Mystery alive and 'kicking'

Q. Years ago when I was a child we used to sing a ditty that went: "Old man Moses kicked the bucket and old man Moses is dead." What does "kicked the bucket" have to do with death?

A. The saying "kick the bucket" has long been used to mean "die." It originates in darkly humorous and sometimes disrespectful contexts. Several explanations have been advanced for its origin.

At one time, pigs to be slaughtered were hung by their hind legs upon a hook in a bent piece of wood; the word "kick" might refer to this piece of wood and "kick" to the struggling movements made by the pig. Or the ex-

pression might refer to the act of kicking the bucket out from beneath a person being hanged. Another explanation holds that the "bucket" in the phrase is the container of holy water once customarily placed at the feet of a corpse during the Catholic funeral mass so that mourners could sprinkle it upon the deceased as they passed.

Unfortunately, none of these theories can be substantiated, and the mystery of the origin of "kick the bucket" remains unsolved.

This column was prepared by the editors of Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, Tenth Edition. Readers may send questions to Merriam-Webster's Wordwatch, P.O. Box 1111, 47 Federal St., Springfield, Mass. 01102.

Dad makes laudable decision in helping his daughter get ahead

Dear Abby: Please settle an argument I'm having with my wife. Our 20-year-old daughter, "Crystal," suffers from ADHD. Last June, my wife insisted that Crystal get a summer job. After weeks of searching, the only job Crystal could find was selling door-to-door.

I was afraid that this door-to-door sales might put my daughter in danger, so I quietly approached the owner of a small business nearby and paid her to give Crystal a job. Crystal did well, and it turned out to be a positive work experience — her first for someone non-family.

My wife just found out what I did, and she is irate. I didn't tell her because she is such a penny-pincher — she complained about piano lessons for Crystal during her senior year because "she was going to college anyway."

What if I did so terribly wrong? I think it was a good thing.

— In the Doghouse in Michigan
Dear "In": Although you did not mention the toll that having ADHD has taken on your daughter, I'm sure it has been significant. You weren't wrong to want

to level the playing field for your daughter and ensure her safety. The benefit to both of you is that she now has a summer of work experience behind her — and the confidence that goes along with it — and you had peace of mind. You behaved like a concerned and loving father, and that is laudable.

Dear Abby



Dear Abby: My husband and I have a problem with the little boy who lives across the street. Any time we pull into our driveway, the youngster will come right over to greet us with 100 questions before we can even exit the vehicle.

If we're in our front yard, he will come over and won't leave, even though we tell him we're busy doing yard work. It has reached the point where we look out the window before we go outside. If he comes over, we go inside immediately. We would like to enjoy all the hard work we have put into our yard and enjoy our patio again.

This may sound selfish, but we just want to be left alone. How can we handle this without hurting the child's feelings and peace with his neighbors? It has plagued us for far too long.

Hotel bull makes woman believe her husband is having an affair

Dear Annie: I think my husband is having an affair. I suspected this back in February when I logged on to his screen name and found a letter he'd written to some woman online. When I confronted him, he said he didn't know the woman, he simply had responded to one of many e-mails from women looking for men to date. He also claimed it was just an impulse and he never heard back from her. He apologized and said he wanted us to work more on our relationship. I agreed and thought everything was going to be OK.

Today, I discovered two transactions on our bank statement from a local motel. I called the motel, pretending to be my husband's secretary, and the clerk confirmed both dates and even mentioned my husband had ordered a movie. I suppose it's possible that my husband had some of business meeting at this motel.

Should I hire a private detective to follow my husband around? Should I confront him? Should I ignore everything? I feel torn about having these suspicions, but I no longer fully trust him. This is so hard. We have two teenage children, and I'm a

stay-at-home mom, so my resources are limited. We also are active in our church and community, and my husband is an important executive, so there is a lot at stake here. What do I do now?

— Feeling Betrayed

Dear Betrayed: Your suspicions are well-founded. Do you honestly think your husband rented a movie from a business meeting at a motel? And why is he corresponding with women who are looking to date? Something is rotten in Denmark, honey.

You have some tough decisions to make. You can choose to ignore the evidence and go blissfully about your life, pretending nothing is going on. Some women actually prefer this route. Or you can confront him and insist he go with you for marriage counseling. Talk to your doctor or clergyman for a referral.

Dear Annie: I must have been the luckiest person around in 1950 when I married my husband. My mother-in-law gave this prayer to me.

She lived by it, and so have I. There hasn't been a bad word

— Prisoners in Our Own Home, Norwich, Conn.

Dear Prisoners: You have described a very lonely little boy. I'm sure if he had other things to do, and friends to play with, he wouldn't be depending on you for human contact. However, since you and your husband are not child-oriented, I advise you to speak to the boy's parents and urge them to get their son into some activities where he can be entertained and interact with his peers. You would be doing the boy a favor.

Dear Abby: I have known "Cassie" for more than a year. We both like each other a lot, but she has asked me to "give her a few weeks" because she wants to regain the trust she lost because of her sex. Well, it has been six weeks, and we barely even talk anymore because she's so busy with work and extracurricular activities. What should I do?

— Matthew in Indiana

Dear Matthew: Get busy with YOUR work and extracurricular activities. That way you'll have less time to worry about Cassie, who, from my perspective, is nowhere near ready for another relationship with anyone.

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box #840, Suite 100, Los Angeles, CA 90040. Write to Abby on the internet at <http://www.uspress.com/dearabby>. Universal Press Syndicate

Annie's Mailbox

Dear Annie: I have been married for 15 years. I have a 15-year-old son and a 12-year-old daughter. I have a very good relationship with my wife, but I have been feeling like I'm not getting enough attention from her. I have been thinking about having an affair, but I don't want to hurt her. I have been thinking about having an affair, but I don't want to hurt her. I have been thinking about having an affair, but I don't want to hurt her.

Dear Annie: I must have been the luckiest person around in 1950 when I married my husband. My mother-in-law gave this prayer to me. She lived by it, and so have I. There hasn't been a bad word

between my son-in-law and me in over 40 years, and my daughter has lived by it with her four married children.

— M.J.R. in Pennsylvania

Dear M.J.R.: You sent this to us quite a while ago, but we were waiting for Mother-In-Law Day, which is today. The advice is worth remembering:

Mother-In-Law's Prayer

Teach me to speak or hold my tongue, when silence is divine.

Help me, I pray, to understand this newfound child of mine.

Keep me from taking bitter sides or adding angry flames.

Teach me to leave them both alone, like children at their games.

Teach me to be a friend to dead, whose smile they're glad to share. Never too near, yet never too far, this is my humble prayer.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to annie@ann.com or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5771 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045. Creators Syndicate

RELIGION

Yahya to renew faith during Ramadan

DOD civilian hopes to encourage more open practice of Islam in military

BY NANCY MONTGOMERY
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — Around 4:15 a.m. Monday, Yahya Abdul-Qadir sat down with his family for breakfast. He ate chicken and rice. Then he was done with food and drink for the day — no coffee, no water, nothing until noon. That's the schedule he'll be keeping all month.

Abdul-Qadir is one of, at most, a handful of practicing Muslims on base, services conducted in the base chapel each Friday usually consist of him, he said, and one or two other men.

But Abdul-Qadir writes the weekly religion column included in the base newspaper every Friday — and for last Friday's edition he wrote about Ramadan, the Muslim month of fasting. He wrote it for two reasons, he said: to educate readers about the holy month, and to reach out to "undercover" Muslim sailors and civilians he's sure exist on base and the 7th Fleet's ships.

"It's the time of year you sort of re-jump-start your spiritual life," said Abdul-Qadir, a youth sports coordinator for the base Morale, Welfare and Recreation department.

"A good friend of mine on the Kitty Hawk told me there were plenty of Muslims on the Kitty Hawk but they never revealed them selves. Another brother — he's from Egypt — he keeps a low profile. When Ramadan comes, it's also a way to reach out to sailors who've gone undercover."

The month started Saturday and will conclude about Nov. 16 with Eid ul-Fitr, or Feast of the Fast-breaking, a celebratory banquet, gifts, family visits and prayers. In the meantime, all sane, healthy, adult Muslims are supposed to fast every day from before the morning prayer until sunset as a way to purify themselves as they rededicate themselves to faith, charity and goodness and to test their faith.

"You have good days and bad days," Abdul-Qadir said. "The first day is always great. You call everybody — all the Muslims you know. The second day is great. Some days you have bad days — you have to exert yourself physically. For instance, Thursday I do a PE class for home-schoolers," he said. "I was shocked how tired I was just running around for an hour."

Petty Officer 2nd Class Umar Hicks, who worships with Abdul-Qadir most Fridays and works for Commander Naval Forces Japan, said for him, the first day of fasting is among the hardest. After that, he gets used to it except for one thing: "I miss water," Hicks said.

The rigors of Ramadan vary with the time of year in which it occurs. Winter is easier because the time between sunrise and sunset is shorter. "If it falls in the winter month, you've got it real sweet," said Abdul-Qadir. "When I first became Muslim, it was in August and September. Your eyelids will get dry. You get cranky and irritable. That's



Yahya Abdul-Qadir, youth sports coordinator at Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan, said the Ramadan month of fasting tests Muslims' faith and will. "It's the time of year you sort of re-jump-start your spiritual life," he said.

part of it — you have to show that self-restraint. If you can't take it and you cussed somebody out, you will have broken the fast and have to make that up.

"One of my first Ramadans, I had just bought a new mountain bike," Abdul-Qadir said. "I rode it from the store to my mother's house to my apartment. I almost passed out."

Abdul-Qadir, 35, is from Philadelphia and converted to Islam from Christianity when he was 20. "I was always a religious person. But Christianity just wasn't doing it for me," he said. Before he converted, his first name was John. He declined to say what his former last name was.

What does do for him in Islam, he said, is its prescriptions for the way to live in all of life's aspects.

"It's a whole way of life. There's no separation between church and state. Everything that encompasses someone's life can be found in the Quran. I find it's the ultimate guidance."

But since the United States was attacked three years ago by Islamist terrorists, and

after the United States went to war first against the Taliban in Afghanistan and then against Iraq, being openly Muslim can be an act of courage.

"It's pretty difficult," Abdul-Qadir said.

"A good friend of mine on the Kitty Hawk told me there were plenty of Muslims on the Kitty Hawk but they never revealed themselves. ... When Ramadan comes, it's also a way to reach out to sailors who've gone undercover."

Yahya Abdul-Qadir
Youth sports coordinator,
Yokosuka Naval Base

predominantly Muslim country and has a Muslim government, and it's difficult to track the terrorist groups [operating there]. "Anybody from Malaysia is on the list. We

don't have time to check if you're a terrorist or not. That's the way it is. When you're at war, some things aren't fair," the chaplain said.

Abdul-Qadir said that when he arrived a year ago, six or seven Muslims attended Friday prayer services but they since have been assigned elsewhere. "I'm basically friends with two families and that's about it," he said.

Lt Cmdr Brook DeWalt, USS Kitty Hawk spokesman, said there were no Muslim relief services requested during the last under-way period but there had been such services the time before that, led by a lay reader.

There is a Muslim imam, or prayer leader, serving in the region: Lt. Muhiyiddin Ibn Noel, of Camp Courtney, Okinawa. Noel, one of three U.S. Navy Muslim chaplains, declined to speak to a reporter without approval from the base public affairs official when he was reached Monday evening. Public affairs officials did not return phone calls.

According to one estimate, from 4,000 to 10,000 practicing Muslims and about a dozen Muslim chaplains serve in the U.S. armed forces. One of them, a U.S. Army Muslim chaplain, Capt. James Yee, 35, spent 76 days in custody after the military linked him to a possible espionage ring at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Yee was charged with mishandling classified material, failing to keep an order, making a false official statement, adultery and conduct unbecoming an officer. Eight months later, the charges were dismissed.

Hicks said that in Norfolk, Va., where he served previously, there were at least 100 Muslims and he was surprised there were so few here. Chaplain Noel said he had been treated well. Commander Naval Forces Japan has accommodated his twice-daily prayers during the workday and prayer services on Fridays, in part because of the last ship he was on, the galley opened early just for him during Ramadan so he could get something to eat before his daylong fast.

"People do joke, though. In housing, he said, someone saw his Arabic clock and said, 'I'm going to turn you in to Homeland Security.'"

Hicks was not amused. "I didn't say anything," he said.

The largest denomination at Yokosuka base is Roman Catholicism — some 500 attend Sunday services, in part because of the large Filipino presence on base. Next largest is evangelical Christians — about 200 worshippers each Sunday — followed by mainstream Protestants at about 170. Pelikan said. There are about 20 Jews who attend Sabbath services each Friday, Pelikan said.

Abdul-Qadir said he hopes his article in the base paper will inspire Muslims who haven't been practicing to start doing so.

"There are plenty of mosques in Japan," he said. "Hopefully, somebody will call me and want to go to the Eid."

E-mail: Nancy Montgomery at montgomeryn@patriotpress.com

Church stresses family planning

MANILA, Philippines — The Roman Catholic Church, which is opposed to artificial birth control, hasn't done enough to promote responsible family planning in the fast-growing Philippines, the archbishop of Manila said Monday.

"We have the impression that the church is against family planning. Wrong. The church believes that you could rear the children you are afforded to raise," Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales said. "That people do not understand. I'm sorry, the church is at fault. We have not taught enough."

He said the church believes people should plan their families the natural way and exercise personal discipline to avoid unwanted pregnancies.

Church pension programs

WASHINGTON — The House voted last Friday to amend several securities laws dating back to the 1930s to allow church pension programs to pool their assets with private and government pension plans as a means of increasing retirement savings.

Under the legislation, which now goes to the president for his signature, church pension plans can participate in "collective trusts" where corporate and other secular pension plans join together for investment purposes in stock and non-stock areas.

The House sponsors, Reps. Judy Biggert, R-Ill., and Harold Ford, D-Tenn., said their bill would enable thousands of church plans, set up so clergy and lay church employees can save for retirement, to enjoy the benefits of collective buying power.

Award named for council founder

COLUMBUS, Ind. — The National Council of Churches will memorialize co-founder and former President J. Irwin Miller with an annual award honoring people working on Christian unity and social issues.

Miller, the former chairman of Cummings Engine Co., was an alternate delegate from the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) to the council's founding convention in 1950 and the council's first lay president from 1960 to 1963. He was 95 when he died Aug. 16.

"Not only was he a great businessman and philanthropist, but he was a great churchman," said Rev. Shanta D. Frennawartha, director of the council's interfaith relations committee.

From The Associated Press

Wandering wallaby

MD SEVERN — A wayward wallaby wandered into the woods of this town where another wallaby once was.

The marsupial made its way into Ken and Jean Lauer's backyard about two months ago. The family had been feeding it while animal control officers tried to catch it.

The wallaby simply stole the food and eluded the traps set by animal control officers.

Debbie Collison had hoped that this was a wallaby named Kanga that had disappeared from her conservation center in nearby Davidsonville nearly five years ago.

But alas, the wallaby the Lauers named Hoppy and lured into a dog cage Monday using Happy Hopper, a granola-fodder for wallabies provided by Collison, was not Kanga.

"We don't think it's Kanga, we think it's a wallaby that got loose," Collison said Tuesday.

Hoppy is staying at the county animal control headquarters as police try to find it a home.

They may send Hoppy to Collison's National Endangered Wild Animal Research and Conservation Center. She and her husband, Steve, are preparing a spot for the wallaby in case they are allowed to keep it until — or if — the owners step forward. It will be in good company with the Collisons' other wallaby, BeBe.

Wallabies are native to Australia and sport a mix of gray, red and brown fur. They grow to 2 or 3 feet tall and weigh about 30 to 50 pounds when mature.

Judge gets slap on wrist

AR LITTLE ROCK — Judge L.T. Simes II may be sending the right message with the lyrics on his new CD, but the cover art shows poor judgment, the Judicial Discipline and Disability Commission has ruled.

In a letter dated Friday, the commission told the judge that he violated judicial ethics rules by posing in his robes with a gavel on the cover of his CD, "The Testimony."

The disciplinary action, an informal adjustment — a figurative slap on the wrist — was made public Tuesday.

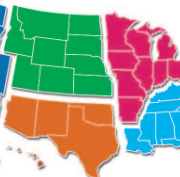
Executive director James Badami said in the letter that the commission took into account the fact that "The Testimony" is a collection of the judge's inspirational musical performances intended to "inspire young people from backgrounds similar to yours to transcend what may have been difficult beginnings in their own lives," and that it was motivated by religious belief.

"Although the commission commends your efforts, it found that the CD and its cover constituted a technical, though unintentional, violation of the Code of Judicial Conduct," Badami wrote.

The letter says commissioners accepted Simes' promise not to sell any more copies of the CD, but offered him the option of distributing the remaining copies free.

Program going strong

FL TALLAHASSEE — Florida's prepaid tuition program expects to attract its millionth customer during a sign-up period that began this week. A one-time payment of \$10,300 for a newborn covers a four-year public uni-



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

versity bill at age 18. Installment payments are another option. The Florida program, which began 17 years ago, has already sent 125,000 students to college.

Zoo code may change

CA SAN FRANCISCO — The San Francisco Zoo would never again be home to elephants under a proposed new law expected to be introduced by Board of Supervisors President Matt Gonzales.

In addition to banning the pachyderms from the zoo, the proposal would codify the role of the city's Animal Care and Control office in overseeing the health and welfare of the zoo's creatures.

Two zoo elephants died last spring: Calle, 37, who suffered from degenerative joint disease, and Maybelle, who died of heart failure at age 43.

The zoo's remaining elephants, Lulu and Tinkerbell, both 38, are being prepared for a move to a sanctuary under an outcry by animal rights activists.

Man jumps to death

MT GREAT FALLS — A man jumped to his death at the Great Falls International Airport after trying to board an airplane without a valid ticket, police said.

The man, whose erratic behavior alarmed an airport security officer, dove over a second-story railing Wednesday and fell about 20 feet as the officer was calling police on his radio.

Relatives of the 42-year-old man



Autumn ambling

Joe Boyes walks along the parkway in St. Joseph, Mo., despite a steady mist Thursday afternoon.

The walk goes by the Fairview Golf Course in St. Joseph and follows an old railroad bed.

had told officers he was mentally ill, Sgt. John Sowell said. Family members told police the man had recently traveled from Florida to Great Falls, where his sister lives.

The man arrived at the airport early Wednesday with an airline ticket that was valid, but not for the departing 6 a.m. flight to Salt Lake City, Sowell said. He said the man talked to himself and danced around the waiting area before getting in line for the flight. Sowell said the man did not threaten anyone.

The man became agitated when a security officer asked him his name, airport Director Cynthia Schultz said. The officer asked the man to remain calm, then tried to call police, Schultz said. The man then bolted for the railing and fell head first, she said.

ID theft concern rises

TX AUSTIN — Possible identity theft is a concern for many Texans after the state Department of Public Safety said it misdirected about 800 drivers' licenses to the wrong addresses.

Only about 400 people have returned the errant licenses they received in recent weeks, the DPS said Tuesday.

"Obviously, there's some concern," said DPS spokeswoman Teta Mangle.

State officials want anyone who gets the wrong license to return it to the nearest DPS office, Mangle said.

The culprit? "It's a new mail-sorting machine," she told The Dallas Morning News in Wednesday's editions. "It's not behaving, so we've taken it off-line."

Home to become haven

MD BALTIMORE — City and community leaders are planning to turn the home of a family killed by a drug dealer into a safe haven for children and families. Angela and Carrell Dawson and their five children were killed two years ago this month when their home was set on fire by a drug dealer who was angered by the family's calls to police.

Former chief charged

CA DORAVILLE — A former suburban Atlanta police chief faces criminal charges for allegedly using department money to buy hunting supplies. Ron Davis, who resigned as Doraville police chief in 2002, is accused of theft and violating his oath of office for allegedly taking money seized from drug busts and using it to buy hunting equipment for himself and his friends. If convicted of all charges, Davis would face a maximum of 15 years in prison.

'Safe city' gets detector

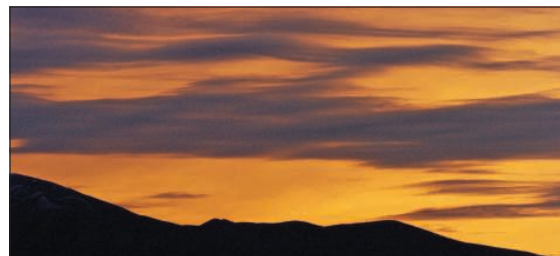
CA THOUSAND OAKS — The City Council of what's considered one of the safest cities in the United States approved installing a metal detector at City Hall because of the unruly behavior of a council candidate. Daniel Avila, 25, was arrested Oct. 5 for shooting obscenities over a bullhorn at candidates for mayor. Avila previously waved a hatchet during a hearing and has called for President Bush's execution. Mayor Wilson Sr. also recommended that City Hall get a full-time security guard.



Snow dancin' Christine Carda, 18, dances in the snow at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, Ariz., on Thursday.



Memorial project Bob Brady, 63, of Lancaster, Ohio, places flag number 1,105 into a memorial display in front of his brother Galin's home in Bloom Township, Ohio. As of Thursday, the brothers have placed 1,107 small U.S. flags into the ground, each flag representing a soldier that has been killed in Iraq since the U.S. invasion in 2003. Galin Brady, 61, said he got the idea for the project after seeing two similar memorials for the fallen soldiers during a road trip through New England earlier this year.



Mountain sunset

After four days of almost constant rain, the clouds broke, allowing a view of the sunset behind the Wellsville Mountains near Logan, Utah, on Thursday.



Elephant train

Elephants from the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus make their way along 9th Street after disembarking from rail cars at E. 26th Street to Gund Arena in Cleveland on Thursday.



Having a blast

Dillon Whittett, right, and Storm O'Brien, both of Bethel schools in Bethel, Okla., are caught off guard as an air boat takes off, getting them wet during the Oklahoma Highway Patrol kids day event at Wes Watkins Reservoir near McLoud, Okla., on Thursday.



Doggone graduate

Juvenile inmate of the Manatee County Omega Prison Kristopher Williams holds his charge, Wesley, on Thursday at the canine's graduation from a year's training to be a guide dog for Southeast Florida's Guide Dogs for the Blind in Palmetto, Fla.

Dinner — cell-phone free

AR BENTONVILLE — Diners at The Vineyard can distance themselves from the din of cell phone chatter.

The restaurant has designated a "No-Cell-Phone" area, after customers who complained about listening to conversations from adjacent tables asked for the ban.

"We had a therapist in from New York in who was giving marriage counseling on the phone for 30 minutes and there were two other tables in the dining area and both complained," server Brittany Peacock said.

The seating preference changes with the time of day.

"At dinner, there are people who don't want cell phones," Peacock said. "At lunch people come in and expect to take a call in the middle of the day and they want cell phones."

If someone receives a call while in the cell-free area, they are asked to go outside or into the other area.

Man nabbed in sting

CA SACRAMENTO — Undercover Sacramento County sheriff's detectives arrested a 33-year-old motorcycle club member after they said he tried to buy a 12-year-old girl for sexual purposes.

Sheriff's spokesman R.L. Davis said the department received an anonymous tip that Waydd Matthey Reichard was attempting to buy a female minor.

Davis said an agent set up a meeting with Reichard in a parking lot. According to Davis, Reichard revealed that he was interested in buying a preteen. He was arrested on suspicion of attempted lewd acts with a minor and solicitation to commit rape. No minor was present at the time, Davis said.

Woman faces charges

OH CINCINNATI — Denia Bolden knew her developmentally disabled and wheelchair-bound teen ward had scalded herself with microwaved noodles. But Bolden laid down to take a nap, not taking her ward for medical treatment for 36 hours.

Bolden, 28, faces up to five years in prison after she pleaded guilty Monday in a plea deal to child endangering in exchange for two other cases being dismissed.

Bolden was at her house Feb. 9 with Tears Whitfield, 14, who suffers from cerebral palsy. Bolden was ill, apparently suffering from strep throat that earlier had sent her to the hospital. The girl wheeled herself to the microwave to make something to eat.

"Tears states she has never used a microwave before and Denia Bolden knew she was going to use it to heat her food," police wrote in court records.

She nuked her noodles and water for 14 minutes then placed the steaming bowl on her lap and tried to wheel herself to a table to eat.

Instead, the steaming water and noodles spilled into her lap, scalding her legs.

Men threaten officials

NJ CAMDEN — Five men convicted of fraud have continued to send financial threats to judges, prosecutors and other officials, a U.S. attorney told a judge. The men were convicted in July by a jury that found they passed \$17

million of fake money orders. They said they were members of a group that claims it is indigenous to the land now known as the United States and thus not subject to the nation's laws. In April, a federal judge found the men in contempt because they had been attempting to file liens against judges and prosecutors.

Elections official chosen

FL JACKSONVILLE — Gov. Jeb Bush chose a Jacksonville real estate attorney with Republican connections to lead Duval County's elections office. Bill Scheu takes over exactly two weeks before Bush's brother, President George W. Bush, seeks re-election.

Campaign finance records show Scheu has given thousands of dollars to several GOP candidates, including U.S. Rep. Ander Crenshaw of Jacksonville and North Carolina U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Dole.

Woman left plea for help

ND BISMARCK — Police are searching for a woman who may have written a plea for help on a restaurant napkin, officials said. Employees clearing a table at a Red Lobster restaurant called police after they discovered a note that read "Help me. Please call police." The foursome who ate at the table paid for their food with a credit card registered to a couple from Levelland, Texas. "We don't know if [the note] was real. But if it was real, it would be nice to get whoever wrote it out of the situation they're in," Lt. Dan Donlin said.

Taking soccer to Iraq

ME BANGOR — A Maine man who serves as a security contractor in Iraq is spreading a little joy to children in the war-torn country through the international language of sports. Alan Johnston, a soccer referee in central Maine, recently helped outfit a small band of Iraqi children with soccer balls, T-shirts and shorts after watching kids playing with rocks and metal cans.

"Soccer [here] is also a way for the kids to try and forget their horror they are living in," Johnston said.

Health director on trial

TX DEL RIO — The former head of the Kickapoo tribe's health care program is accused of stealing money and laundering checks, a prosecutor says in the woman's federal trial.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Bill Harris told jurors in his opening statement Tuesday that Marcela Mendoza allegedly used phony checks to Mexican doctors, to a variety of vendors, and even to herself, some as large as \$15,000. Harris said she converted many of these at a check-cashing outlet in Eagle Pass.

But Greg Torres, Mendoza's defense lawyer, said the 48-year-old woman is liable only for sloppy record-keeping and caring too much about her Indian clients.

Mendoza, former director of Kickapoo Community Health Services in Eagle Pass, was arrested in November on accusations that she stole about \$259,000 from the program over a two-year period ending in October 2002.

Stories and photos from wire services

AFRTS Television Schedule

Updated sports listings are available on the first Scoreboard page in the sports section or AFN's Web site at <http://myafn.dodmedia.osd.mil>

SPECIAL TO STARS AND STRIPES

Walter Scott's **Personality** PARADE

Want the facts? Opinions? Truth? Write Walter Scott, Box 5001, Grand Central Station, New York, N.Y. 10163-5001. Full name will be used unless otherwise requested. Volume of mail makes personal replies impossible.

QI see Hugh Grant not only has a new film out next month, "Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason," but also a new lady. Can you tell us about her? — Nora R., Ozone Park, N.Y.
A She's Jemima Khan, 30, daughter of the late billionaire Sir James Goldsmith and former wife of Pakistan's great cricketer Imran Khan, with whom she has two children. Hugh, 44, seems serious about Jemima, but her friends say that, for once, he has met someone even more commitment-phobic than he is.

QBrad Cotter has been on the country-music scene for a long time. How much did winning on "Nashville Star" improve his career? — J. Turner, Dallas, Texas
AA whole bunch. "I worried that doing reality TV might be career suicide," Brad, 34, tells us. "But less than two months after winning, my CD 'Patient Man' debuted at No. 4 on the country charts." Incidentally, he'll perform for our troops stationed in Europe later this fall.



USA

This "Nashville star" plans to play for troops in Europe this fall.

QRick Schroder was terrific on "NYPD Blue." What has he done since leaving that cop show? — D. Douglas, Chatham, N.Y.

ANothing for TV. Rick, whose breakout role came at age 5 in "The Champ," recently directed another boxing film, "Black Cloud," about a Native American who becomes a Golden Gloves winner. It opened this month and was financed by five tribes in Arizona, where Rick, 34, lives with his Mormon wife, Andrea, 31, and their three kids. He next plans to direct a film about the two wives of a Mormon pioneer in the 1800s, based on his own script.

QWhy would the producers of "CSI: Miami" kill off such a likable character as "Speed"? — Maryann Larson, Clearwater, Fla.

A"Don't be mad at CBS. I asked to get out of my contract," says Rory Cochrane, 32, who played the geeky-but-cool forensic tech Tim Speedle. "I ran out of steam after the monotony of the same explanatory scientific dialogue for two years." Rory says he's forbidden to do another TV series for four years but is in a feature film, "A Scanner Darkly," due out next year.



CBS

Rory Cochrane, who played a forensic specialist on "CSI: Miami," says he left the show on his own terms.



The WB

Alicia Keys: Don't bother calling this successful singer's number.

QI heard that R&B singer Alicia Keys gives out her phone number in her CD "The Diary of Alicia Keys." True? — Diane Polk, Pittsburgh, Pa.

ANo. It's an old number she no longer uses. But Alicia, 23, has been racking up some real numbers with "Diary." The CD has sold more than 3 million copies. And in November she'll publish a book of her song lyrics and poems, titled "Tears for Water."

QI love Andy Rooney's commentary on "60 Minutes." My husband says he's married. I say no. A bet is riding on this. Who's right? — Punky Harding, Roundup, Mont.

AAndy's wife of 62 years, Marguerite, died last April at 84. Andy himself is 85 and going strong. "I feel that people who retire just peter out," he tells us. "I have one of the greatest jobs in the world. Why would I ever want to retire?" We hope he never does.

QTo whom did Sen. Hillary Clinton turn for advice when she learned that her husband was going to undergo quadruple-bypass surgery? — C. Cole, Portland, Ore.

AAn unlikely source: Tennessee Sen. Bill Frist, 52, the Republican majority leader and an acclaimed heart-transplant surgeon. They occupy opposite ends of the political spectrum — and may end up opposing each other in the 2008 presidential race — but Dr. Frist reassured Mrs. Clinton, 56, telling her that he knew her husband's surgeons, and they were among the world's best. The two senators also co-authored an op-ed piece in The Washington Post calling for wider use of information technology in health care.

QCharles Lindbergh was one of America's greatest heroes. But I've heard he had a secret second family in Germany. True? — J. Maroney, Lewes, Del.

AYes. DNA tests last year confirmed that Lindbergh — a first man to fly solo across the Atlantic nonstop — had three illegitimate children in Germany. His relationship with Brigitte Hesslauer, a Munich hat maker, lasted from 1957 to his death in 1974 at 72. "Lucky Lindy's" wife, Anne, was lucky enough to die at 93 in 2001, apparently unaware of the affair. Brigitte died the same year at 74.



KRT

Paltrow isn't likely to stay on the sidelines.

QIs Gwyneth Paltrow really abandoning her movie career for motherhood? — Vicki Catalain, Cave Creek, Ariz.

ANo. When a highly paid movie star starts talking about giving up her day job, it's always a good idea to listen carefully to what she says. Gwyneth's exact words were: "I can't imagine going back to shoot a movie." After a few more months of early-morning feedings and changing diapers, we predict her imagination will improve.

YOUR MONEY

Bigger bills roll in with technology

BY CHRISTOPHER STERN

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Satellite radio. Cell phone. High-speed Internet service. Matt Botwin, a Washington consultant, has it all — and the bills that go with his growing bundle of technology.

With each new service, more of Botwin's monthly income is spoken for. A generation ago, mortgages, utilities and newspaper subscriptions made up a short list of payments due each month. Now Americans pay an average of 12 bills a month, including fees for a broad range of services such as television programming, home security-system monitoring and online gaming Web sites. And each individual bill may increase as consumers add incremental improvements such as Internet access to their cell phones and premium channels to their satellite radio service.

Botwin figures that he spends at least \$250 a month on his subscription services. "I'm not happy about it. It's a lot," Botwin said. But he also feels that his digital devices and services are necessities. The Sirius satellite radio is indispensable for his frequent drives to New York and Philadelphia. "It's like any luxury. I didn't think I needed a microwave, but I'm sure glad I have now."

Economists and academics are growing concerned about Americans' willingness to cede a regular chunk of their monthly paychecks to new conveniences and services, saying it is taking a serious bite out of discretionary spending, a key driver of the nation's economy. They also worry that new services are contributing to a growing divide between consumers who have the means to secure special treatment, such as access to free-rolling highway lanes, while others are stuck in bumper-to-bumper standstills.

This lock'em-in-and-keep-'em-loyal routine has roots going back 100 years, with King Camp Gillette, who at one point gave away his innovative safety razor, then made his fortune selling the disposable blades. High-tech companies have found a way to raise the stakes. The foundation of their new business model may have been pioneered by the cable industry in the early 1950s when it began offering consumers, for a small monthly fee, access to a better television picture. In its early stages, cable charged less than \$5 a month for a service that was nothing more than retransmission of local TV stations. Now the industry has become a telecommunications and entertainment behemoth that offers hundreds of channels, high-speed Internet access and telephone service, among other things. The monthly cable bill for millions of subscribers now totals well over \$100.

Michael Mazis, chairman of the Department of Marketing at the Kogod School of Business at American University, said the cable industry followed a classic marketing pattern of getting a foot in the door with a basic service and then methodically increasing the consumer's dependence on the product.

Mazis contends that all the earmarked spending on new conveniences raises concerns for other products competing in the marketplace. "It reduces the amount of disposable income," Mazis said. Ultimately, shopping malls, restaurants, even catalog merchandisers may find that they are taking a back seat to services that are billed to



Am checks his cell phone messages as he walks down Avenue of the Americas in New York. New technology, like Internet access on cell phones, comes with the price of increased bills for consumers.

consumers on a regular basis. "I think it is really affecting the purchase of clothing, for example," Mazis said. But larger market and competitive forces make it unlikely that the trend will reverse any time soon.

Wireless phone companies are following cable's lead, initially offering a basic service that allows people on the go to communicate.

Now cell phones regularly provide Internet access, and some even allow users to watch TV and play video games. Each service a customer adds gives the company a new revenue stream of a few dollars a month.

Wired phone companies are competing with their own bundle of services. The regional phone giants, including Verizon Communications Inc. and SBC Communications Inc., offer telephone, high-speed Internet service and television channels. The phone companies have no television programming of their own but are able to offer consumers satellite TV service through partnerships with DirecTV and Dish Networks.

Cable, telephone, Internet and other subscription services are also benefiting from changes in the way people pay their bills. Many consumers have opted for their gym membership, their online professional journal, their newspaper delivery — directly applied to their credit cards, which they in turn pay on a monthly basis. Others take advantage of automatic-debit programs that allow companies to place money right from the customer's bank account. After they sign off on the first bill, some consumers may not notice the monthly fee unless they take a close look at their bank statements or credit card bills.

But there also is growing concern among some economists that the introduction of expensive new technology services is dividing the nation into digital haves and digital have-nots.

SEE BILLS ON PAGE 31

Getting to know Tricare

Susie Besaw, from the book "The Savvy Sailor's Spouse," is new to the military lifestyle but is eager to learn more about how to manage her family and her new lifestyle through the monthly Family Readiness Group meetings of her husband, Jake's, new command. Last week, her friend Maggie hurt her ankle and introduced Susie to Tricare.

When it came time for the May Family Readiness Group meeting, Maggie was eager to go. Thankfully, she also was able to walk without too much effort.

Evenly started the meeting on time as usual and plowed through our agenda. When we finished with new business, she had an announcement. "Before I introduce this evening's speaker, I wanted to mention that I am looking for a speaker for next month."

"We scheduled a mechanic from the base maintenance complex to talk to us about basic car maintenance. But he agreed before checking with his wife. Apparently, he would have had to cut short a family vacation in order to be here next month."

Everyone chuckled.

Car maintenance, I thought. I helped my dad rebuild an MG sports car from the ground up. I didn't have anything put together for a presentation, but probably could over the next month. But was I ready to stand in front of a big group of my fellow spouses? Then I remembered Maggie giving her excellent presentation and decided to raise my hand.

"I'll do it," I said.

Everyone was quiet. I looked around. They were looking at me as if I had said the dumbest thing in the big deal? I guess I was about to surprise everybody.

"You'll find someone?" Evelyn asked.

"No," I replied. "I'll give the presentation. I rebuilt a sports car with my dad and have played with cars since I was little. It'll be fine."

At that point, it became obvious to everyone I was serious — then many faces turned from amazement to intrigue. I bet they didn't think I could do it. Boy, was I going to have fun showing them.

Evenly continued, "Thank you, Susie. Now I'm going to announce our guest lecturer. She just arrived and needs to head out as soon as she is done. Our guest speaker, Cmdr. Sarah Michel, is from the base hospital's director of admissions. She is going to talk about the basics of Tricare, the military medical insurance program."

Cmdr. Michel, a tall, thin, attractive woman who exuded confidence, walked toward the front of the room and began. "Let me first say that this presentation is a basic overview," she said. "I am a hospital administrator, not a doctor, which means I can't answer any personal medical questions. What I can answer are any Tricare administrative questions you may have."

"As Evelyn said, Tricare is the military's health insurance program. It is a huge program administering hundreds of thousands of active and retired military families each year. Despite its size, it produces some of the best medical care you can find."

"In order to participate in Tricare, you must first be a family member of an active duty or retired service member and be registered in the DEERS program. You can register by calling at 1-800-538-9552. That's Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System, by the way."

"After you enroll in Tricare, you are assigned a primary care manager or PCM. Your PCM is normally a military general practitioner located at the closest military hospital or military treatment facility known as an MTF. You can determine which PCM you want at your MTF and request any PCM as long as they're in the system."

Next week, Cmdr. Michel talks more about Tricare.

Copies of Ralph Nelson's books — "The Savvy Sailor" and "The Savvy Naval Officer" — can be purchased by writing to: John P. Nelson, 590 N. Washington St., P.O. Box 10071, Rockville, MD 20850 or online at www.savvysailor.com. This article is written and the book is sold by the author. Neither the author nor Stars and Stripes are professional financial advisers. If you need advice, please seek professional assistance. The author specifically disclaims any liability, loss or risk — personal or otherwise — incurred as a consequence, directly or indirectly, of using or applying any of the information contained in this article or the book. E-mail for feedback is: finance@stripes.com

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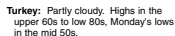
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Application Program Analyst

CLIN: 0001AH General Job Description

• Assist functional users in identifying software application requirements that will support business processes. • Analyze user application requirements for the software development team. • Provide Level II support for corporate and educational software applications to include common off the shelf (COTS) or modified COTS. • Coordinate software implementation schedules with technical project managers and customer community. • Provide software support to DoD/OSI business units, such as Resource Management Office, Logistics, Human Resources Office, Procurement, and Information Management Office. **Salary range between \$6,788 - \$9,944 per month / This position is located in the DoD/OSI Europe HQ, IT Division office.**

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CLIN: 0001AE General Job Description

• Provide and maintain databases in an enterprise architecture and/or other environment. • Typical services include management of user accounts, access permissions, passwords, security controls, and storage limitations. • Resolve reported database problems; perform database backups and restore data when needed; install, configure and maintain database systems; install database software patches; generate and maintain system documentation. **Salary range between \$6,148 - \$7,654 per month / This position is located in the DoD/OSI Europe HQ, IT Division office.**

Network Administrator

CLIN: 0001AD General Job Description

• Provide network infrastructure support for the DoD/OSI network. • Typical services include management of detection systems, VPN resources, access control devices, and telecommunication interface circuits. • Services also include resolution of reported issues, coordination of critical initial and unusual requests, assistance with LAN/WAN equipment upgrades, data traffic monitoring, and performance enhancements. • Network Administrator is responsible for the overall security posture of the network and are required to maintain thorough documentation. • They will ensure that LAN/WAN systems are secure and conform to DoD, DoDAE and DoD/OSI standards. • Network Administrators may also be asked to provide management with consultation and recommendations for complex technical projects. **Salary range between \$5,530 - \$6,923 per month / This position is located in the DoD/OSI Europe HQ, IT Division office.**

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CLIN: 0001AF General Job Description

• Develop software modules and programs based on system requirements and specifications. • Typical services include program application and testing, development of system E systems, document developed applications, provide implementation instructions in accordance with DoDAE standards, and resolve software development issues. • Provide Level III support for application related issues on in-house developed applications. • Assess software systems are fully integrated and responsive with the DoD/OSI infrastructure. **Salary range between \$5,478 - \$6,640 per month / This position is located in the DoD/OSI Europe HQ, IT Division office.**

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CLIN: 0001AA General Job Description

• Maintain and operate a central Customer Support Services Center. • Provide Level I support to users and initial troubleshooting of workstation problems using remote desktop management tools, email and telephonic communication to resolve workstation problems. • Provide Level II software support for corporate and educational applications to include common off the shelf (COTS) or modified COTS. • Provide statistical analysis of the CSDS database to determine trends and generate reports. **Hourly rates between \$23.20 and \$27.60 - This is a full-time, located in the DoD/OSI Europe HQ, IT Division office.**

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Patriots put to test against unbeaten Jets

BY DAVE GOLDBERG

The Associated Press

The perception is that the New England Patriots are awesome, the result of their NFL record 20-game winning streak. In truth, they just win, not overwhelm — their margin of victory during the streak is just about nine points per game.

But the perception is one reason New England is favored by 6½ points for Sunday's meeting in Foxboro with the New York Jets, a game between two of the NFL's three remaining unbeaten teams

with the AFC East lead on the line.

The spread also conveys some skepticism about the Jets.

They are 5-0, but the teams they've beaten are a combined 6-22.

Take away San Diego's three wins and Cincinnati, Buffalo, Miami and San Francisco have just three wins among them, and one of those is by the Bills over the Dolphins.

Still, the game provides Bill Belichick with a way to take attention off the winning streak and put it on what he and his players say is their only goal this year — winning another Super Bowl. While a win this week would set yet another record of most consecutive regular-season wins at 18, the more important issue is the division title. There's also the "get the big guys" factor.

"Everyone wants to beat the people who are on the top," Patriots quarterback Tom Brady says. "With us winning the championship last year and being 5-0 this year, everyone is ready to take us down. We know



Jets defenders sandwich New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady, center, in this 2003 photo. Not since 1973 have two NFL teams gone this deep into the season undefeated and played each other. Both teams are 5-0, with the Patriots winning their past 20.

that. We feel that. We are doing everything that we can to not allow that to happen, but we are always going to get all of these teams' best efforts."

Last week's Seattle game demonstrates why the Patriots have won 20 in a row. Brady fumbled, then was intercepted as the Seahawks rallied from a 20-3 deficit. But he produced 10 points on the next two drives to help put away the victory.

And Bethel Johnson, inactive two weeks ago for unspecified reasons, made a diving 48-yard catch to set up the clinching touch-

down.

The Jets can keep it close. Most teams that play the Patriots do.

They just don't win.

PATRIOTS, 27-23

Jacksonville (plus 9½) at Indianapolis: The Colts won in Jacksonville, are rested and have too much firepower for the Jets' late-game heroics. ... **COLTS, 34-20**

Bengals (minus 5½) at Cincinnati (Monday night): The Bengals played well enough last season to get their first Monday night game in a dozen years. They

won't be back for a while. ... **BRONCOS, 27-13**

Philadelphia (minus 7) at Cleveland: The third unbeaten team remains so. ... **EAGLES, 31-13**

Tennessee (plus 7) at Minnesota: Injuries and salary cap problems are costing the Titans. Even if Randy Moss doesn't play. ... **VIKINGS, 34-23**

Detroit (plus 6½) at New York Giants: Two pleasant surprises, although the Lions let down at home against the Packers last week. ... **GIANTS, 23-13**

Dallas (plus 3) at Green Bay: Can the Packers lose a fourth straight at Lambeau? ... **PACKERS 20-16**

Atlanta (plus 4) at Kansas City: If Vick was a little more familiar with his new offense. ... **CHIEFS, 23-20**

San Diego (plus 3) at Carolina: Everything has gone wrong for the Panthers this season. ... **CHARGERS, 19-14**

Seattle (minus 7) at Arizona: If the Seahawks can't stop the bleeding here, it won't stop. ... **SEAHAWKS, 34-10**

Chicago (plus 6) at Tampa Bay: Craig Krenzel, who could play for the Bears if Jonathan Quinn falters, was a nice college QB. ... **BUCS, 20-3**

St. Louis (minus 6½) at Miami: Southern Cal would give 6½ against the Dolphins. ... **RAMS, 24-6**

New Orleans (plus 3) at Oakland: Kerry Collins should get more time to throw this week. ... **RAIDERS, 27-26**

Buffalo (plus 6) at Baltimore: No Jamal, so the Bills keep it close again. ... **RAVENS, 17-6**

Last week: 5-9 (spread), 6-8 (straight up). **Season:** 46-40-2 (spread), 59-29 (straight up).

Sherman's pep talk continues to motivate Packers

BY ARNIE STAPLETON

The Associated Press

GREEN BAY, Wis. — Coach Mike Sherman is going to keep calling the plays for the Green Bay Packers. He doesn't expect he'll need another pregame pep talk, however.

Sherman gave a memorable speech before making a spectacular debut as a play-caller in the Packers' 28-point win at Detroit last week that ended the team's monthlong nosedive.

It was the first time since Mike Holmgren paced the Packers' sideline in the 1990s that Brett Favre had his play-caller on the field with him. And, in the three-time MVP town, it was heard down there, he's seeing, he's hearing, he's feeling what's going on," Favre said.

With offensive coordinator Tom Rossley still weak from heart surgery, Sherman will continue directing Favre from the sideline at least until midseason, and Rossley will advise him from the coaches' box.

The Dallas Cowboys visit Lambeau Field on Sunday for a crucial game between two underdog teams that harbor hopes of a playoff push. The Cowboys (2-3) have never won in four trips to Green Bay and the Packers (2-4) are trying to avoid their



first 4-0 record at home since 1986.

Two weeks ago, they gave up a franchise-worst 48 points at Lambeau to Tennessee, their seventh loss in the past 13 games at the stadium. And, in the stadium where they had gone 61-8 from 1995-02.

Yet, the Packers believe they've turned the corner thanks to their solid performance at Detroit and Sherman's impassioned, heartfelt talk at the team hotel the night before the game.

"It wasn't a pep talk, it was more of him just putting his heart on the table," Kabeer Gbaja-Biamila said.

NFL players tend to tune out the Knute Rockne-type speeches they've heard since they were in Pop Warner, but this wasn't that.

"It's hard to believe in pro football guys need to hear some things like that sometimes to play

up to par, but it was a good one," Favre said.

Kicker Ryan Longwell said it was like talking with your neighbor, not listening to the boss.

"It was not the normal 'coaches-peak' stuff, but it came from the heart, and that makes a big difference," he said. "In sports, talk is really cheap. It's much easier to talk a good game than actually go out and do it. Usually the speeches all run together, but when there's something that's so honest and heartfelt and sincere as he gave us Saturday night, you definitely feel it."

Sherman went around the room and reminisced with his players, telling stories about several of them, about how he first scouted them or when he met them or a moment in their time together when things finally clicked.

He talked about how he hadn't lost faith in them, about how they were the same team that made the playoffs three years in a row and how they were going to pull out of this funk together as long as they still believed in him and in each other.

Afterward, "you could see in everyone's eyes that we were ready to play and we had about had it playing the fashion that we were playing football. We're a better team than we had shown

the previous four weeks," safety Darren Sharper said.

The Packers said the usually stoic Sherman showed an emotional side, and they responded in resounding fashion.

"Yeah, they sure did," marveled Cowboys coach Bill Parcells.

And they aren't through, Longwell suggested.

"The right words said at the right time are extremely powerful and that was the right time for that speech," he said. "It can have a lasting effect. Sure, it can turn the corner for this season."

Maybe the Cowboys could use something similar from Parcells, whose team hasn't scored more than 21 points in a game this season and has been outscored 45-9 in the fourth quarter, including 27-0 the past two weeks.

"We need to work on finishing games," Cowboys safety Roy Williams said. "Right now, we're just playing three good quarters."

"We're together. There's nothing wrong. We just need to get it."

Even without another speech, Favre is glad his coach will be talking to him face-to-face throughout the game.

"Now, you can do that on the phone (with the offensive coordinator). It's just a phone call away," Favre said. "But it's light years difference."



Green Bay Packers quarterback Brett Favre, right, running back Tony Fisher, left, celebrate during last week's victory against the Detroit Lions.

Of course, what would really help the Packers more than words is the return of 350-pound nose tackle Grady Jackson, out since the opener with a dislocated kneecap, leading to a dismal run defense.

Jackson contends he's ready to return, but what would it take for him to convince Sherman? "Probably put him in a headlock," Jackson joked.

He'd have 52 inspired teammates to fight off.

Surprising success with familiar formula

Giants, Lions winning turnover battle, preventing big plays on special teams

By Tom Canavan
The Associated Press

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — While the Detroit Lions and New York Giants have been two of the biggest surprises in the NFL this season, the reason for their success isn't startling.

Taking the ball away on defense, holding it on offense and preventing big plays on special teams usually translates into winning records.

Unlike a year ago when they combined for nine wins and fell out of playoff contention early, the Lions (3-2) and Giants (4-1) will have a lot at stake Sunday when they meet at Giants Stadium.

The Giants are riding a four-game winning streak that includes road victories over Green Bay and Dallas in the past two games. The run under new coach Tom Coughlin matches their victory total in 2003.

"People on the street treat you a lot better than they did when we were 4-12, trust me," Giants defensive end Michael Strahan said. "Our thing is to go out there and give them something that they can cheer for, and hopefully, that is a 5-1 record."

The Lions have struggled in games after its off week. It has lost three straight, six of seven and 12 of 15 since the week off was instituted in 1990.

"It's a home game and we have to win our home games," said Giants halfback Tiki Barber, whose 577 yards rushing is second in the NFL. "That's what our focus is. It's the oldest axiom in sports. We are preparing for the long run."

The Lions, who were 5-11 a year ago, also have something to prove after a 38-10 home loss to Green Bay last week.

Not only didn't Detroit play



well, but coach Steve Mariucci said the team did not react well to adversity.

"You're going to have up and down weeks," Detroit quarterback Joey Harrington said. "The teams that are alive in January are the ones that can manage the ups and downs of a season."

The key for both teams this season has been defense, particularly the ability to generate takeaways.

The Giants have taken the ball away from opponents 15 times. The Lions have 12. Both are among the league leaders in turnover differential.



Detroit's Joey Harrington has eight touchdowns passes and three interceptions this season. Last year, he had 17 touchdown passes and 22 interceptions.

NFL briefs
... al."

If McCordell starts, it will be opposite Eric Parker, Richie Caldwell, San Diego's leading wide-out, sustained a season-ending knee injury in last Sunday's loss at Atlanta.

Schottenheimer wasn't sure if wide receiver Bobby Shaw, signed as a free agent on Tuesday, will play against Carolina.

Eagles' McDougle diagnosed with irregular heart beat

PHILADELPHIA — Philadelphia defensive end Jerome McDougle missed practice Friday be-



With 577 yards, Giants running back Tiki Barber ranks second in the NFC in rushing. He is averaging 163.4 total yards per game.

Neither offense has been explosive, but both have been great at maintaining possession. Each has just four giveaways.

Coughlin is concerned about the Lions' special teams. Eddie Drummond is third in the league in kickoff returns with a 29.0-yard average. The Lions also have stepped opponents inside the 20-yard line on eight of 21 kickoff returns.

Detroit, which went three years without a road victory, has won two in a row away from home.

"I love going back to New York and playing, especially against a good team," Mariucci said. "You've got to be able to be good on the road and even better at home. So as we go through this we're learning how to do this. This is going to be a very physical game."

"You watch that team play and they're very strong and physical and veteran-like," Mariucci added. "Kind of like the Giants'

playoff team from recent years. They kind of went into a tailspin last year, but prior to that they were a playoff team."

If there is a difference between the teams, the Lions have a greater mixture of youth and veterans. Coughlin still has many members of the nucleus that took New York to a Super Bowl appearance in the 2000 season.

"We're trying to do things with long term in mind and to build a solid foundation of youngsters that can be with us for a long time and that's our plan and we're sticking to it right now," Mariucci said. "We do have a long ways to go, but I like the direction that we're heading and I like the energy that this team has."

The Giants and Lions have not played a regular-season game since 2000, when Detroit won 31-21. Detroit also beat the New York Jets in the Meadowlands that season. The Lions have won their past four games at Giants Stadium, also sweeping both New York teams in 1994.

Threat: Pats could go 6-0 for first time

THREAT, FROM BACK PAGE

"We are fortunate to be 5-0. We know that," New York coach Herman Edwards said. The Patriots "have really set the mold for other teams to look at and say, 'Hey, if you want to win games, this is kind of how you should orchestrate it.'"

The Patriots do it with few stars, a team-oriented approach and a day-by-day focus. It does help, however, that they filled one of their few needs in the offseason by trading for running back Corey Dillon. He rushed for 105 yards and two touchdowns in last Sunday's 30-20 win over Seattle.

Dillon is ninth in the NFL in rushing, but Martin, with 613 yards, an average of 102.6 per game, is No. 1 and having one of his best seasons since he left the Patriots after three seasons to sign with the Jets in 1998.

He needs just 31 yards to pass Jim Brown for seventh place on the NFL rushing list. He has 12,282 yards compared to Brown's 12,312.

"Any time you have an opportunity, why not do your best?" said Martin, a 10-year veteran.

The Patriots will need to play their best to keep him from another big rushing day.

"When I played against Dillon, he was a very powerful back that had tremendous speed," Harrison said. "Curtis Martin's the same way. He's probably one of the strongest backs, pound for pound."

With Martin and Pennington, who has come a long way since throwing five interceptions against the Patriots in a 21-16 loss last Dec. 20, New England could have a tough time reaching 6-0 for the first time in its history.

But whatever the result, a play-off berth is hardly assured.

"I know this is a big game nationally and people are making a big deal out of it," Jets guard Pete Kendall said, "but it's the sixth game of the season for each of these teams and regardless of the outcome there's still a lot of football left to play."

WR McCordell could start for Chargers on Sunday

The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — Newly acquired wide receiver Keenan McCordell will make his season debut on Sunday and might even start the San Diego Chargers in their road game against the Carolina Panthers.

The Chargers obtained McCordell from the Tampa Bay Buccaneers for two draft picks on Tuesday, just before the NFL trading deadline. McCordell was the league's last holdout, skipping the first six games with Tampa Bay because he was unhappy his contract wasn't renegotiated.

"It's not out of the realm of possibility that Keenan starts," coach Marty Schottenheimer said Friday.

"He has some history in this system, but it was a long time

ago," Schottenheimer said. "But he has come along and had no problems at all."

If McCordell starts, it will be opposite Eric Parker, Richie Caldwell, San Diego's leading wide-out, sustained a season-ending knee injury in last Sunday's loss at Atlanta.

Schottenheimer wasn't sure if wide receiver Bobby Shaw, signed as a free agent on Tuesday, will play against Carolina.

Eagles' McDougle diagnosed with irregular heart beat

PHILADELPHIA — Philadelphia defensive end Jerome McDougle missed practice Friday be-

cause of an irregular heartbeat and was doubtful for the Eagles' game this weekend against Cleveland.

Eagles head trainer Rick Burkholder said McDougle came up after Thursday's practice of feeling a little lightheaded, shortness of breath and upper respiratory infection symptoms.

The Eagles sent him to the hospital, where McDougle was diagnosed with an irregular heartbeat. He spent most of the evening at the emergency room and took medication that restored a normal heartbeat within four or five hours, Burkholder said.

"He's in good shape, he feels fine and he's pretty much back to normal," the trainer said.

Burkholder said McDougle had no history of heart trouble and

doctors didn't know why he developed the problem, though it could have been caused by a virus.

"He has an absolutely normal heart," Burkholder said.

"There's nothing out of the ordinary, no disease in the heart, nothing they think would have caused this."

McDougle, a first-round pick a year ago, has been productive this year in a reserve role after missing half his rookie season with injuries. McDougle has five tackles and a sack this season, and leveled Giants quarterback Eli Manning in the season opener.

Coach Andy Reid said he'll wait until doctors make a final decision before deciding if McDougle can play.

"He had a good week of prac-

tice. It's not that he doesn't know what's going on," Reid said.

Titans put CB Woolfolk back on injury report

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Cornerback Andre Woolfolk was added to the Tennessee Titans' injury report Friday after back spasms forced him to leave practice early.

Woolfolk, a first-round draft pick in 2003, began having difficulties when he landed awkwardly jumping for a ball.

The third cornerback in the Titans' packages leads the team's cornerbacks with 24 tackles. He also has an interception and three passes broken up.

The condition was not considered serious and no X-rays were planned.

49ers' yoga bear

Burly tight end Johnson is flexible of mind and body

BY GREG BEACHAM

The Associated Press

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — Before the San Francisco 49ers take the practice field, Eric Johnson kneels and stretches. Then he backs his muscled 6-foot-3 frame into the plank, the downward dog and a handful of basic yoga positions.

Behind him, a chunky defensive lineman is laughing his head off.

"Anthony Adams thinks I'm hilarious," Johnson said. "Double-A is really flexible naturally, so he'll come up and pull his arm behind his head or something to make fun of me. ... He thinks some of the things I do are crazy."

Johnson probably isn't nuts, but he is a different kind of football player. The San Francisco tight end is a Yale graduate, a yoga devotee and a keen observer of presidential politics and current events.

He also is the NFL's surprise receiving leader, with 45 catches for 484 yards and two touchdowns.

He has earned a reputation as one of the league's toughest skill players, never missing a step despite playing with cracked ribs in his last two games.

After missing all of last season with a broken collarbone, the former seventh-round draft pick has become quarterback Tim Rattay's favorite target — and a rare bright spot in a dismal season for the 49ers (1-5), who went into their off week with their worst record since 1979.

"Eric has done everything we

"He's got all the tools you need to be a great tight end in this league, and there's no doubt he's got the mind for the game. He's a Yale guy, right? He might have too much mind for the game."

Dennis Erickson

San Francisco 49ers coach

asked him to, and he's really improved his game this year," coach Dennis Erickson said. "He's got all the tools you need to be a great tight end in this league, and there's no doubt he's got the mind for the game. He's a Yale guy, right? He might have too much mind for the game."

With his precise routes, soft hands and blocking acumen, Johnson is the prototypical West Coast tight end, the modern version of former Niners star Brent Jones. That's exactly how the 49ers imagined him when they drafted the Ivy League's leading wide receiver in 2001.

The 49ers no longer run a recog-

nizable version of the West Coast offense, however. Johnson has evolved along with the club's game plan to the point where he has become Rattay's favorite target, particularly with the pocket collapsing and time running out.

"We've been throwing and catching with each other a lot in the last year or so, and you can see the results of that," Rattay said. "He's a great target. He runs precise routes, he gets his hands up and he gives you his eyes so quick. I feel like we're on the same page almost all of the time."

Rattay relied on Johnson to an astonishing degree in consecutive games earlier this season. Johnson caught 10 passes for 113 yards in a loss to St. Louis, then followed it with 13 catches for 162 yards and a key score in the 49ers' only win, an overtime thriller against Arizona.

After just six games, Johnson already has exceeded career highs for catches and yardage. He understands part of his success is due to the 49ers' lack of a proven receiving threat, but he's also worked hard for it.

"I've been in a good groove where I'm finding the seams in the defense and getting open for Tim," Johnson said. "We've been behind in some games, so we've had to throw the ball a lot, and I've been fortunate to get some good coverage."

Johnson took up yoga after a back injury two years ago. He believes it improves his flexibility and strength as a complement to his regular weight training.

He does it year-round, taking



Eric Johnson caught 13 passes as San Francisco beat Arizona, the 49ers' only win in six games this season. Johnson, a Yale grad and yoga devotee, tops the NFL with 45 receptions for 484 yards and two TDs.

classes in the offseason and relying on a book of positions during the fall. A few teammates have dabbled with him, including the ever-limber Adams, but only Johnson practices the discipline before practice.

Johnson, a native of Needham, Mass., has always balanced athletics with enlightenment. He was an American studies major at Yale, where he also punted while developing into one of the Ivy

League's best wide receivers of the last two decades.

"And he still hasn't lost his interest in the world outside the locker room — to a point. He supports Massachusetts' senator John Kerry in next month's presidential election, but he's more concerned with turning around the 49ers' disappointing season."

"I'm just trying to be a part of helping this team win," Johnson said. "Whatever I have to do, I'll do it."

Preseason goal far out of reach as Davis struggles

BY JOEL ANDERSON

The Associated Press

HOUSTON — Dominick Davis proudly boasted before the season of his goal to join the NFL's ultra-exclusive club of 2,000 yards rushers.

He'd better pick up the pace.

Davis would need to average 177 yards over the next 10 games, a rate that even he acknowledges is all but impossible.

"I'm still going to try my best to get it," Davis said. "I'm not going to change anything, not my goals or anything. Maybe it's impossible to do it, but there's nothing going to stop me from trying."

Davis' first goal should be simply turning around a season that appears to be mired in a sophomore slump. As the Houston Texans' first 1,000-yard rusher as a rookie, he's run for just 233 in six games this season and has a tenuous hold on his job.

Costly fumbles, nagging injuries and the emergence of former fourth-string tailback Jonathan Stewart have kept Davis on the bench a lot more than he might have expected.

With Houston off this week,

"I'm still going to try my best to get it. I'm not going to change anything, not my goals or anything. Maybe it's impossible to do it, but there's nothing going to stop me from trying."

Dominick Davis

Houston Texans tailback

Davis is being treated for a bruised left thigh, an injury that kept him out of the second half against Tennessee last Sunday. That injury came a week after he returned from a sprained right ankle that kept him out of the previous two games.

"What Dominick is using this week for is to get healthy and get his legs back under him," Texans coach Dom Capers said. "Dominick has just had some nagging injuries that you always get in this game. We fully expect him to come back strong and be his old self."

A fourth-round draft pick out of LSU in 2003, Davis has been on the injury list almost as often as on the field since coming to Houston.

He missed much of his first training camp after breaking his right hand. He missed two games

last season with groin and thigh injuries and was slowed by chest and hip ailments in two other games.

As a result, the 5-foot-9, 221-pounder is hearing many of the same concerns about his size and durability that he heard coming out of college.

"It's frustrating, but that's just part of the game," Davis said. "If people aren't happy with it, it's their problem. The team hasn't lost any confidence in me."

No, but it might not be long before the Texans lose patience.

Davis wasn't playing all that well even before he was hurt.

Davis is averaging 2.9 yards a carry, and his longest run has been only 10 yards. He's also got fewer touchdowns (three) than fumbles (four), the same number of turnovers he has his entire rookie season.

Even while Davis has struggled, Houston's offense has thrived.

The Texans have the NFL's 10th-ranked unit behind the emerging pass-catch combo of David Carr and Andre Johnson. Wells has provided a powerful running presence since Davis and backup Tony Hollings have missed time with injuries.

"There's no question Jonathan has improved his position," Capers said. "He started out this training camp as the No. 3 back and he has come on very strong. Anytime we've called on him, he has come in and performed very well."

Davis insists he isn't worried about his role as a starter.

"I know what I can do when I'm healthy," Davis said. "I know I can still do the job."

Originally pegged as a kick re-

turner and third-down back when drafted, Davis quickly proved he can be one of the league's better runners when healthy. His shiftness, vision and subtle power allowed him to run for 1,031 yards and eight TDs in 10 starts as a rookie. He ran for more yards than all of the seven running backs drafted ahead of him — not bad for a guy who hadn't opened a season as a starter since his senior year of high school in Breau Bridge, La.

That's why no one thought it too absurd when he said in January he believed he could join O.J. Simpson, Eric Dickerson, Barry Sanders, Terrell Davis and Jamal Lewis as a 2,000-yard rusher.

Davis' teammates still believe it's only a matter of time before he gets back on track.

"We know Dominick will be back to his old self. It's a long season," Carr said. "He'll be running strong, just as good as he was before."

And though the odds may be long, Davis hasn't abandoned hope of ultimately realizing his preseason goal.

"They didn't think I'd get 1,000 last year," Davis said, "so you can never say never."

Lions stay perfect, shut out Würzburg

Stars and Stripes

Nick Trice returned the opening kick 88 yards for a touchdown Saturday as the Heidelberg Lions closed out an undefeated regular season with a 44-0 victory over the visiting Würzburg Wolves.

Trice, a sophomore, also returned an interception 70 yards for a second score as the Lions improved to 6-0 in a game which ended with 8:17 to

play in the third quarter because of the mercy rule.

Levis Allen ran for two TDs and caught a 10-yard pass from quarterback T.J. Trice for a third score. T.J. Trice also ran for a touchdown.

The Lions will host Würzburg (2-4) in a Division I semifinal on Saturday.

In Saturday's other Division I regular-season finales:

Wiesbaden 39, Lakenheath 14: At Wiesbaden, the Warriors earned a homefield berth in the D-1 semifinals by coasting to a 32-0 halftime lead.

Quarterback Steve Jewell, 11-for-16 for 138 yards, three touchdown passes to Lones Seibert, Shannon McCray and Marcus Lewis as the Warriors improved to 5-1.

The Warriors will host Ramstein on Saturday.

McCray and Paul Fry, who rushed for 111 yards on just seven carries, added touchdowns for Wiesbaden.

Lakenheath (1-5) scored on a quarterback sneak by Justin King and Matt Tremblay's 20-yard run.

But the Lancers were foiled the

rest of the time by a Wiesbaden defense which got interceptions from Jordan Ruger, Tim Anderson and Chad Kelly, and a safety by McCray.

Ramstein 26, Kaiserslautern 13: At Ramstein, the Royals rallied from a 13-point deficit to defeat the Red Raiders and gain a berth in Saturday's Division I semifinals.

Trailing 13-0 with less than a minute left in the first half, Ramstein linebacker Cole Maxey stripped the ball from a Kaiserslautern running back and ran in from five yards out to cut the lead to 13-6. The extra point was no good, and the Royals trailed by seven points at halftime.

The Raiders had taken a 7-0 lead in the first quarter on a 1-yard run by quarterback Danny Morris and an extra point by Jason Swift.

Morris gave K-town the 13-0 lead when he hit Josh Warren for a five-yard touchdown pass in the second quarter. Morris set up the TD with a 70-yard pass to Antoine Carter.

Maxey's defensive play kept Ramstein in the game, Royals coach Glenn Porter said.

"When Maxey stripped the ball, that was a big momentum shift," Porter said. "At halftime, we decided we were going to have fun and play good ball. And we eliminated a lot of mistakes."

The Royals tied the game in the third quarter when quarterback Eric Murray capped a 49-yard drive with a 12-yard touchdown run, and David Mauldin hit the extra point.

Ramstein took its first lead at 8:28 of the third quarter when Murray hit Brennan Relaford for a five-yard score. Relaford kick-started the drive with a 20-yard punt return, Porter said.

The Royals closed out the scoring with 1:03 left, when tight end Paul Petersen lined up at the fullback position and ran in from four yards out.

Relaford had two interceptions for Ramstein, which also got 13 tackles from Matt Slaymaker.

No statistics were available for Kaiserslautern.

Ramstein (3-3, 2-3) will take on Wiesbaden on Saturday in a replay of last season D-1 title game.

K-town fell to 1-5 and missed the playoffs.



Cincinnati Bengals coach Marvin Lewis, right, talks to his players on the bench during the Bengals' 34-17 loss to the Cleveland Browns on Oct. 17. The Bengals play the Denver Broncos on Monday night.

Bengals can't afford to bungle during rare prime-time game

BY JOE KAY

The Associated Press

CINCINNATI — Smile for the camera. Recite your name, position and alma mater. Do it in a way that sounds really cool to all the folks back home and envious buddies around the league.

Then, back it up by playing your best game in front of a national audience. It's not think about how one bad play could define your career. Hope your team plays well enough to get invited back.

This is some big. "Yeah, it's Monday night," Denver quarterback Jake Plummer said. "Yeah, it's this. Yeah, it's that. What are you going to do?"

That's the best question for Cincinnati's first home Monday night game in 15 years: What are the Bengals (1-4) going to do?

Everybody knows what the Broncos (5-1) are going to do: approach it like just another game. And why not? The Broncos are Monday night regulars, appearing for 13 straight years, with as many as three games a season.

They're so accustomed to the spotlight that they don't even squint.

"I think we've got guys on this team that can separate themselves from the grandeur of the game and go out and just play football like they know how," said Plummer, who will be playing in his third. "We've got a few guys that have played in Super Bowls, a lot of guys that have played in some big games."

And the Bengals have ... problems.

The season is ready to unravel, just like the last 13. Despite a resolve to change, they're back to being lovable losers — good for a few prefalls, a few laughs and a half dozen wins each season.

"If we win the game, everything is not going to be all positive



again," linebacker Brian Simmons acknowledged. "You can't control what people say and how people think about you."

All they control is how they think of themselves, and that's another problem. They're not very good in the self-image category.

They get skittish whenever there's a chance to show the NFL they're not as bad as everyone thinks, a recurring theme during their 14-year slump. Come Monday night, will the country see confident new Bengals or the same old Bengals?

"That's another step that we fight all the time with our guys, but I've got to find a way to get out of them," coach Marvin Lewis said.

He won't get many more chances. Such opportunities exist these parts about once a decade.

Cincinnati hasn't hosted a Monday night game since Sept. 25, 1989, a 21-14 win over the Browns at Riverfront Stadium. Sam Wyche was the head coach, Boomer Esiason was the quarterback and Ozzie Newsome was catching passes for Cleveland.

The Bengals haven't even played on Monday night since Oct. 19, 1992, a 20-0 loss at Pittsburgh's Three Rivers Stadium.

Since then, the Broncos have played 33 Monday night games — nine preseason, 24 regular season — while the Bengals have piled up lonesome losses in exile.

If they blow this chance, they may not get another.

"We don't want to look bad on national TV," right tackle Willie Anderson summed up.

Anderson hasn't played on Monday night during his nine-year career — the price for playing in Cincinnati. Simmons is getting his first Monday night game in seven seasons.

Most of the Bengals have only fantasized about moments like this.

"Every kid does," quarterback Carson Palmer said. "I remember my dad would get home from work on Monday nights — it starts a lot earlier on the West Coast — and we'd eat dinner and watch the game."

That was our Monday night tradition."

The Broncos have quite a different Monday night tradition. They actually get to play on it.

"We've been on national TV quite a bit," coach Mike Shanahan said. "So, to be honest with you, I don't even think about it." Nor do most of his players, who have been through the say-your-name routine many times. To them, this is about seeing how many yards they can squeeze out against a woeful defense.

Denver is rushing for an averaging of just under 152 yards per game, best in the league. Cincinnati is giving up an average of just over 160 per game, worst in the league.

If they do what they want — get Reuben Droughns running free in Cincinnati's secondary — they'll most likely improve to 6-1, safety John Lynch said. "It's a heck of a lot better than the alternative."

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COMING IN STARS AND STRIPES THIS TUESDAY!

Asbach cruises to No. 22, next round

Stars and Stripes

ANSBACH, Germany — Brian Bachtel threw two touchdown passes Saturday as the Asbach Cougars cruised to a 36-0 victory over the visiting AFNORTH Lions in a Division III quarterfinal.

Bachtel, who was 8-for-9 passing for 285 yards, hit Russell Bailey with a 34-yard scoring pass and James Esters with a 49-yarder in the first quarter to leave little doubt that the Cougars were on their way to their 22nd straight victory.

Tuarek Moore closed out a 21-point first quarter with a 7-yard TD run. Dameon Outley and Xavier Sheppard added TD runs in the second quarter.

Asbach (6-0) handed the ball to 11 different runners in the second half, resting its starters for this Saturday's semifinal game at Bamberg.

The Barons Hill 21-A champ Menwith Hill 28-8 on the road Saturday.

AFNORTH (2-4) could do nothing against the Asbach defense, which was led by Esters' interception and fumble recovery. Jay Augustine added an interception and James Robinson a fumble recovery for Asbach.

In other Division III quarterfinals on Saturday:

Baumholder 40, Rota 29: At Baumholder, the Bucs rallied in the fourth quarter to move into a semifinal game this Saturday at Hohenfels.

Trailing 29-26 with eight minutes to play, Baumholder mounted a 10-play, 62-yard drive capped by slot back Rashad Taylor's touchdown to put the Bucs ahead to stay.

They added an insurance TD as the clock ran down when Taylor

Division III football

crashed over from the 1 for his fourth TD.

Taylor (21 carries, 236 yards) opened the scoring in the first quarter when he launched a 44-yard TD pass to Ron James after catching a lateral from quarterback Chris Bray.

The play followed a successful onside kick the Bucs pulled off to open the game.

Baumholder followed that TD with scoring drives of 35, 80 and 70 yards in a frantic attempt to keep up with the hard-running Admirals.

Rota's Joseph Casey led that charge, rushing 16 times for 105 yards and all four Admirals touchdowns. The Rota star, along with his teammates, impressed Baumholder coach Carter Hollenbeck in another way, too.

"Rota showed the best sportsmanship of any team I've ever played," Hollenbeck said. "I saw Casey plow down one of our guys, and the next thing I knew he was over helping him to his feet. It was like playing against your family, and it all starts with their coach, Ben Anderson."

Rota, which ended its season with a 3-3 record, got 182 yards passing from quarterback Chris Trezise. He connected six times in 18 attempts.

Hohenfels 24, Sigonella 18 (20:17): At Sigonella, Hohenfels quarterback Jason Parks ran in for a touchdown, his second in regulation, with five minutes to play to force overtime.

Sigonella's Keenan Jones ran in from eight yards out in the first possession of the OT, in which each team is given the ball at the 10-yard line and allotted



RAYMOND T. CONWAY/Stars and Stripes

Baumholder's Chris Bray (17) hands the ball off during a DODDS Division III playoff game against Rota in Baumholder, Germany, on Saturday. Baumholder defeated Rota 40-29.

four downs. Hohenfels matched Jones' score when Brandon Merriweather ran in from the two and the process began again.

Hohenfels went first on the second possession, and Merriweather crashed in from the five to put the Tigers ahead. The Tigers claimed the victory and the host's berth for the semis when Sigonella couldn't overcome 15 yards in penalties and fumbled the ball away at the three.

Sigonella, which ended its season at 3-3, opened the scoring when Michael Petty, who rushed for 111 yards on 17 carries, recov-

ered a Hohenfels' fumble in the end zone on the opening kickoff.

After Hohenfels led the score on a 10-yard run by Parks, Jade Garth ran in from a yard out to give the Jaguars a 12-6 halftime edge.

In spite of the 12-12 regulation score, Hohenfels rushed for 462 yards and passed for 53. Merriweather rushed the ball 12 times for 139 yards.

Bamberg 28, Menwith Hill 8: At Menwith Hill, Chris Starr threw TD passes of 78 and 12 yards to Marvin Gholston as the

Barons won their fourth straight game and coaxed the host slot against Asbach in Saturday's semifinals.

Tim Battle, who ran the ball 10 times for 119 yards, added a 10-yard TD run, and Christian Peel scored on a 48-yard interception return as the Barons improved to 4-2.

Menwith Hill, playing in its first-ever playoff game, lost for the first time this season and finished at 5-1.

Mike Bailey, who carried the ball 20 times for 102 yards, ran seven yards for the only Mustang score.

Shapiro's knockdown lifts Raiders into semifinals

Stars and Stripes

Adam Shapiro knocked down a J.D. Lindsay pass in the end zone on the final play of the game Saturday as the International School of Brussels Raiders defeated the visiting Patch Panthers 27-19 to advance to the semifinals of the European Division II playoffs.

Shapiro's play came after Philip Lipman's 40-yard touchdown run moments earlier had given ISB breathing room. It was the second TD run for Lipman (9 carries, 103 yards), and helped the Raiders stay unbeaten (6-0).

ISB's Sebastian Stege, stepping in for the injured Drew Thigpen, rushed for 122 yards and two touchdowns on his 14 carries. Defensively, he sacked Patch quarterback J.D. Lindsay twice.

Lindsay (18-for-29, 214 yards) passed for all three Patch TDs, one to Matt Carr and the other two to Neil Griffin.

Andrew Vanderlind intercepted Lindsay's pass on the ISB goal line in the second quarter to

Division II football

thwart a potential score for Patch (2-4).

The Raiders, who got 11 tackles each from Stege and Dan Kubis, will host Hanau this Saturday in the Division II semifinals.

In other Division II quarterfinal games Saturday:

Naples 40, Wildcats Central 0: At Naples, the Wildcats cruised to a mercy-rule victory over the visiting Bobcats.

The Wildcats scored on their first possession, a 14-play drive capped by Jason McKeechie's 6-yard touchdown run. McKeechie (21 carries, 122 yards) also had a 34-yard run during the drive. Tyler White added the extra point to make it 7-0.

London Central fumbled on its second play from scrimmage, and Michael Aque plucked the ball out of the air and raced 30 yards for a touchdown. White's PAT made it 14-0.

"That was a back-breaker," Naples coach Jim Hall said. "They made us work hard on that first drive, then they fumbled on their second play."

Tyler Terrenz hit Mark Per-year with a 24-yard pass at 9:52 of the second quarter to put the Wildcats up 20-0. Terrenz was 6-for-9 for 108 yards and two scores.

Naples scored twice more before the half: a 60-yard run by Charles Cleveland and a 23-yard TD pass from Ben Stevenson to Chris Youniss.

The Wildcats (5-1) led 34-0 at halftime.

The game ended at 5:41 of the third quarter when Terrenz hit Per-year with a 31-yard scoring strike to make it 40-0.

On the defensive side, Aque has eight tackles, while Matt Briegel added 7 takeaways and a fumble recovery.

Naples will host SHAPE in the semifinals.

London Central (2-4) had only eight first downs. The Bobcats committed five turnovers.

Hanau 50, Bitburg 23: At Hanau, the Panthers advanced to a semifinal game at International School of Brussels by outscoring the Barons 29-2 after halftime.

Malcolm Lane rushed for 144 yards and scored three touchdowns for Hanau (4-2). Two of those TDs came on 140 of his 155 return yards as he broke a kickoff return for 80 yards and a punt return for 60 yards.

Hanau also scored on a 35-yard interception return by Ivan James, a 12-yard pass from Ketrone Blanks to Marcus Fontane and a 1-yard plunge by Aaron Ellison. Ellison's score was set up when Drew King returned a Bitburg fumble 80 yards to the Bitburg 1-yard line.

The Barons (3-3) got two TD runs and a safety from Brandon Morales and a rushing TD from Arquel Hodges.

SHAPE 27, Vilseck 0: At SHAPE, the Spartans broke open a scoreless tie at halftime with 20 unanswered points in the fourth quarter.

After the Spartans (5-1) scored on a 55-yard pass play from Sean Corcoran to Joe Puttman to make it 7-0 going into the final 12 minutes, kicker Marvin Combs provided breathing room with two field goals in the opening four minutes of the fourth quarter.

Danny Camarena, who rushed 15 times for 93 yards, and Richard Rendon tacked on late TD runs to put SHAPE into the semifinals.

"Our defense played a tough game," SHAPE coach Kregg Kappelman said. "They gave us time for our offense to click."

Puttman (two interceptions), Doug O'Meara (interception), and Zach Robiego and Ben Frank (fumble recoveries) spearheaded the SHAPE shutout.

Kappelman also praised the defense for Vilseck (2-4).

"They had really quick linebackers," said Kappelman, whose Spartans will travel to Naples this Saturday. "They caused us lots of problems until we figured out what they were doing."



Ryan Newman, right, talks to a crew member Friday after posting a speed of 97.043 mph to take the pole for Sunday's **500**.

Newman confident after winning pole

BY HANK KURZ JR.
The Associated Press

MARTINSVILLE, Va. — Ryan Newman still believes there's time to get back into the Nextel Cup title chase.

"We're looking for places to make up major ground because we need that now," Newman said. "We're not out of the championship by any means. We're not in the best position, but we'll keep our nose to the grindstone."

Newman, 271 points behind leader Kurt Busch, halfway through NASCAR's 10-race playoff, won his series-high seventh pole Friday at Martinsville Speedway. He was one of 17 drivers to top the track record, turning a lap at 97.043 mph in his Dodge.

"It's a good start to the entire weekend," he said.

Newman can't contend without bad finishes by Busch, Dale Earnhardt Jr. and Jeff Gordon, who have been turning the competition into a three-way battle.

Busch won't dispute that Martinsville could be one of the keys to the points race. The narrow half-mile oval always yields bunched fields that frequently lead to crashes that could knock a contender out early.

"This is a race where it could knock the top three out and it could be a 10-car race," he said. "It could go either way. It's just one of the toughest places we go to. You just have to be good when it counts."

But Earnhardt, the only driver with five consecutive top-five fin-

ishes on the track, does not agree that Martinsville's heating and banging style makes it particularly dicey for drivers with championship aspirations.

"Anything can happen anywhere," he said. "Motors break here, they break in Atlanta, they break in Phoenix. It's the same."

Newman will start alongside teammate Rusty Wallace, who qualified for Sunday's Subway 500 at 96.234. The Chevrolets of Earnhardt and Ward Burton will make up the second row, followed by Travis Kvigstad in the first Ford on the starting grid.

Busch, Earnhardt and Newman are the only drivers in contention for the championship who will start in the top 10. Gordon, 74 points behind Busch, will start 15th.

Elliott Sadler, fourth among the chasers, will start 33rd. But that doesn't mean he can't win. Busch started 36th two years ago, but grabbed the lead with 91 laps to go and held off Johnny Benson to win.

Sunday's race, and a truck race Saturday, will be the first for the series since the track was completely resurfaced after the spring race.

"The new surface is definitely different and we're being challenged by it right now," said Gordon, the four-time series champion on who had won three consecutive poles at the track. "We're good, but we're not good enough."

LeFors sparks No. 15 Louisville

BY CHRIS DUNCAN
The Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Even when he disagreed with his coach, Louisville quarterback Stefan LeFors made the right play.

The senior left-hander completed his first 13 passes, threw for one touchdown and ran for another in No. 15 Louisville's 41-9 victory over South Florida on Friday night.

He finished 21-for-26 for 242 yards to help the Cardinals (-5.1, 3-0 Conference USA) bounce back from a 41-38 loss to No. 4 Miami last week.

"It was just one of those nights out there, throwing the ball and not worrying about anything else," said LeFors, who ranks second in the nation in pass efficiency.

Early in the game, LeFors read South Florida's defense and changed a few plays coach Bobby Petrino called from the sideline.

It worked every time, as the Cardinals marched to a 14-0 lead before the Bulls got their initial first down.

"Stefan did an exceptional job," Petrino said. "He used his experience to get us out of what would've been some negative plays and into some positive plays. He's been really effective."

LeFors, completing 75.6 percent of his passes coming into the game, lost his perfect game when J.R. Russell missed on a diving try with 1:03 left in the first half. Art Carmody salvaged the drive with a 34-yard field goal that gave the Cardinals a 27-3 halftime lead.

LeFors sensed the Bulls' defense never got a feel for what the Cardinals were doing.

"Defenses don't know what's coming," LeFors said. "We can do so many things, throw so many things at them."

Russell finished with eight catches for 111 yards, his eighth career 100-yard receiving game. All of them have come with LeFors at quarterback.

Baird aiming for first win at Disney

The Associated Press

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. — Briny Baird has played 133 times on the PGA Tour without winning, and he gets another chance this weekend in the Funai Classic at Disney.

It might take holding a trophy for him to realize how much it means.

After a 6-under 66 on Friday, a round in which he needed only 23 putts, the 32-year-old son of Butch Baird said a trophy alone wouldn't satisfy him.

"I don't think I put the emphasis on winning," Baird said. "It seems like all the media does. I pride myself in playing well and having opportunity. Winning is difficult — I'm not going to deny that. But winning is just one week. I get more satisfaction out of playing well for an entire year than I would out of playing well for one week."

Maybe that's just his way of trying to take away the weekend pressure.

Golf roundup

Baird was at 13-under 131 and had a one-shot lead over Tom Lehman, who shot his second straight 66 and got into weekend contention for the third consecutive week.

There were 26 players within five shots of the lead in a tournament where making pars means losing ground.

And no one will ignore Vijay Singh, who was six shots behind after a pedestrian 71.

Cameron Beckman, squarely on the bubble at No. 123 on the money list, had a 65 on the Palm and was in the group at 133 that included Hank Kuehne (64), Kim Triplett (67) and Skip Kendall (67).

Singh was at 7-under 137 and tied for 28th as he tries to win his fourth straight PGA Tour event.

Louisville, third in the nation in total offense, racked up 517 yards and reached 40 points for the eighth time in 19 games under Petrino, midway through his second year.

The spurring Bulls (2-4, 1-3) finished with 203 yards and 13 first downs — with most of the production coming in late in the game.

Louisville has held four opponents below 250 yards of offense.

The Bulls gained only 40 yards on 27 plays in the first half.

Sophomore quarterback Pat Julmiste misfired on 12 of 13 passes before halftime, with many of his incompletions coming on drops by receivers.

"Our offense obviously didn't move the ball, Pat struggled, and didn't throw it well," said South Florida coach Jim Leavitt.

"We've got to play a lot better on offense."

The Cardinals glided into South Florida territory on their first three possessions. Senior tight end Adam McCauley caught three passes on Louisville's first scoring march, including his first career TD reception with 5:21 left in the opening quarter.

The Bulls went three-and-out from inside their own 10 and Montrell Jones returned a short punt to the South Florida 26. Three plays later, Michael Bush ran into the corner of the end zone on a sweep for a 14-0 lead.

A pass interference call on Louisville cornerback Antoine Harris kept alive a South Florida drive that ended with Santiago Gramatica's 38-yard field goal.

LeFors was 9-for-9 when Petrino replaced him with backup Brian Brohm early in the second quarter. It was the fifth time in six games Petrino has made the move, as he continues grooming the freshman for the future.

Brohm went 3-for-7 on two possessions and Carmody finished the second with a 34-yard field goal with 4:55 left in the half.

Broadhurst holds one-stroke edge in Madrid Open

MADRID, Spain — England's Paul Broadhurst shot a 6-under 65 to take a one-stroke lead after the second round of the Madrid Open.

Broadhurst, who hasn't won on the European tour in nine years, finished 10-under 132, just ahead of Spain's Miguel Angel Jimenez (63), South Africa's Darren Fitchard (66) and Johan Edwards of Sweden (67).

Kite leads field at season-ending Schwab Cup

SOMONA, Calif. — Tom Kite grinded out a 2-under 70 in the second round to maintain his one-stroke lead over Morris Hatakeyama, Dana Quigley and Hale Irwin in the Charles Schwab Cup Championship, the Champions Tour's season-ending event at Sonoma Golf Club.

Hatakeyama's 5-under 67 was the best round among the leaders, but Kite stayed in front at 10-under 134 with an afternoon of saves and clutch putting.

Rapids shut out Galaxy in playoff opener

The Associated Press

DENVER — Jean Philippe Peguero scored in the 30th minute to lead the Colorado Rapids to a 1-0 victory over the Los Angeles Galaxy in an MLS Western Conference semifinal playoff game Friday night.

The second game of the home-and-home, total-goals series is Oct. 30. Colorado can advance to the Western Conference finals with a win or a tie.

Peguero scored his eighth goal of the season off a corner kick by Matt Crawford that was headed toward the net by Nat Borchers.

Peguero trapped the ball and kicked it into the open left corner.

Colorado was led defensively by Joe Cannon. MLS's top goalie this season, who stopped two shots from close range. Cannon allowed just 29 goals in 30 regular-season games.

"I think Joe Cannon played lights out to-

night," said Los Angeles Galaxy coach Steve Sampson. "He literally stopped three clear goals. As far as I'm concerned, he's deserving of the goalkeeper-of-the-year award. He was terrific."

The Galaxy were without Arturo Torres, who sustained a head injury in warm-ups. Eight-time MLS All-Star Cobi Jones suited up, but didn't get into the match until the 57th minute because of a strained Achilles' tendon.

Andreas Herzog and Ryan Suarez were injured in practice on Wednesday.



Colorado Rapids forward Jean Philippe Peguero, center, is congratulated by teammates after scoring a goal Friday night.

Ohio State suspends starting tailback Ross

The Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Ohio State tailback Lydell Ross was suspended for Saturday's game against Indiana by coach Jim Tressel for undisclosed reasons.

The suspension was announced Friday in a news release from the university. Sports information director Steve Snapp declined comment and an e-mail message to Ross was not immediately returned.

Ohio State (3-3, 0-3) is trying to avoid its first 0-4 start in the Big Ten since 1922. The Buckeyes have lost three straight.

Ross has started all six games, rushing for 343 yards with three touchdowns and a 3.6-yard average per carry. He led the Buckeyes in rushing last year.

Ross was among six seniors who went to Tressel last week to request that underclassmen not be permitted to speak to reporters this week. Ross and the others met with reporters on Tuesday night.

"The main thing here is to be focused on what we want, which is to be successful the rest of the season," Ross said Tuesday. "You can no longer think about what's happened in the past. You have to think about what you want in the future. And that's success from now on."

Sports briefs

With Ross out, the Buckeyes will likely give more carries to freshman Tony Pittman and seniors Brandon Joe and Maurice Hall.

Attorney undecided on case against Nuggets' Anthony

DENVER — The city's attorney said Friday he hasn't decided whether to drop a marijuana possession charge against Denver Nuggets star Carmelo Anthony, even though a friend of the player's said the drugs found in Anthony's backpack belonged to him.

"We're still looking at the facts in the case," City Attorney Cole Finegan said.

Anthony received a summons on Oct. 15 at Denver International Airport after a small amount of marijuana was found in his bag as the team prepared to travel to Milwaukee for an exhibition game.

Anthony's lawyer, Daniel Recht, said the marijuana belonged to James Cunningham of St. Louis, who often stays with Anthony when he's in Denver on business. Cunningham has signed an affidavit saying the drugs belonged to him.

After the news of Anthony's citation broke Thursday, Recht met with Finegan and said he expected the case to be dropped.

Before Thursday night's exhibition game in Los Angeles against the Clippers, Anthony said he was innocent and that he did not use or intentionally possess marijuana. He said he regretted any embarrassment he had caused his family, fans and team.

Sharapova, Molik final set

ZÜRICH, Switzerland — Wimbledon champion Maria Sharapova advanced to the final of the Swisscom Challenge Saturday, beating Elena Dementieva 4-6, 6-2, 6-3 in an all-Russian semi.

The fourth-seeded 17-year-old — who felled Venus Williams in the quarterfinals Friday — extended her winning streak to 12 matches, boosting her bid to take three successive titles after wins in Seoul and Tokyo.

In Sunday's final, Sharapova will meet Australia's Alicia Molik.

The Olympic bronze medalist beat No. 10 seed and home favorite Patty Schnyder — the 2002 Zurich champion — in the second semi, 4-6, 6-1, 6-4.

Agassi ousted in semifinals

MADRID, Spain — David Nal-

bandian beat big-serving Ivan Ljubicic Saturday to reach the finals of the Madrid Masters tennis tournament where he'll play Marat Safin.

Argentina's Nalbandian broke his opponent once in each set and held on for a 6-4, 6-4 victory over the Croat in their first meeting.

Safin, the No. 3 seed from Russia, also won his semifinal in straight sets, beating second-seeded Andre Agassi 6-3, 7-6 (4).

With the crowd cheering the 34-year-old American fan favorite on at sold-out Rockodromo Arena, Agassi had his chances of going a break up twice in the second set. But he failed to cash in.

Paerson wins Cup opener

SOELDEN, Austria — Anja Paerson picked up where she left off last year, winning the season-opening World Cup giant slalom Saturday. American Kristina Koznick was fourth, matching her best result of last season.

Paerson, a Swede who swept the World Cup giant slalom and slalom titles last season, sped down the Rettenbach Gletscher in a two-run time of 2 minutes, 25.21 seconds. The Soelden course is considered the steepest and toughest giant slalom on the women's circuit.

Finland's Tanja Poutiainen was runner-up, 0.32 seconds behind.

Maria Jose Rienda Contreras of Spain was third in 2:26.78, while Koznick finished in 2:26.95.

Boxer accused of murder

LOS ANGELES — A boxer who fights under the nickname "The Harlem Hammer" pleaded not guilty Friday to charges that he used a hammer to murder a freelance sportswriter and then torched his Hollywood apartment.

James Butler, 31, was charged with murder and arson following his Wednesday arrest and was being held on \$1.25 million bail, said Sami Gibbons, the district attorney's spokeswoman.

Sam Kellerman, 29, was found dead Sunday at his apartment. His car was missing. Authorities believe he was killed on Oct. 12, according to a district attorney's statement.

Kellerman was the younger brother of Max Kellerman, host of Fox Sports Net's boxing program "I, Max," and covered professional boxing, Gibbons said.

She said Butler and the sportswriter were friends. The boxer had been staying at Kellerman's apartment since late September.

Butler, whose professional record is 20-5, is best known for sucker-punching opponent Richard Grant in November 2001 after losing a charity match.

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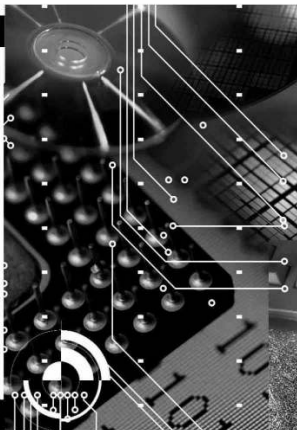
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Boston police on defensive after fan death

Witnesses say officers overreacted, used too much force

BY DENISE LAVOIE
The Associated Press

BOSTON — The death of an Emerson College student who was hit in the face with a pepper spray-filled projectile has sparked anger and questions about whether police used too much force to break up a crowd of Red Sox revelers outside Fenway Park.

Boston Police Commissioner Kathleen O'Toole said police are considering discontinuing the use of the type of weapon that killed Victoria Snelgrove, a 21-year-old journalism major from East Bridgewater.

O'Toole met for several hours with her tactical commanders late Friday to discuss whether to continue using the plastic balls filled with pepper spray, propelled from devices similar to paintball guns, that were used by officers trying to contain rowdy fans that swarmed neighborhoods around Fenway Park Wednesday night and Thursday morning after the Red Sox clinched a spot in the World Series.

The pepper spray balls, which are called "less-than-lethal" weaponry in police parlance, are used by police agencies in hopes of preventing serious injury as they seek to control crowds.

"We want to use the least force necessary in order to maintain the crowd. Very unfortunately, it resulted in a horrible action."

Kathleen O'Toole
Boston police commissioner

"We want to use the least force necessary in order to maintain the crowd," O'Toole said. "Very unfortunately, it resulted in a horrible action."

Snelgrove, 21, died Thursday, hours after being hit in the eye with a plastic ball filled with pepper spray during an early morning celebration in the streets near the Red Sox won the American League pennant over the rival New York Yankees.

Snelgrove was hit as police fired the projectiles into the crowd after some revelers set small fires and threw bottles at police, and vandalized property in the Fenway Park neighborhood.

O'Toole said officers had used "great restraint," but were forced to use the weapons when an estimated 80,000 people began lighting fires and throwing bottles, endangering others.

Witnesses say officers overreacted to the situation.

Several people who were near the area where Snelgrove was shot said the crowd seemed under control when at least one officer began firing the pepper-spray balls into the crowd.

Doug Courcy, 33, of Portland, Maine, said he saw several other people had climbed the rafters of Fenway's famed Green Monster when police began to order them back down. He said he saw an officer in riot gear shoot something into the crowd below him.

He said he heard a woman scream, then heard sobbing. "A lot of people then looked over and saw her lying awkwardly on the sidewalk and blood coming out of her nose. She wasn't moving and we were just hoping she was just unconscious," Courcy told The Associated Press.

Besides Snelgrove, at least two other people were injured by the projectiles, O'Toole said. "I definitely felt it was an egregious overreaction," Courcy said of the police action that night. "I

didn't see any violence around me. People were up on signs ... but there was nothing violent going on. It was all celebration."

Giovanni De Francischi, a 30-year-old Emerson student, said he was about 10 feet behind police officers as shots were fired in Snelgrove's direction.

Although some celebrants had climbed the back side of the Green Monster, he said nobody was climbing anything in Snelgrove's immediate area or causing property damage around the time she was shot.

"It was not at all necessary to disperse that crowd. If you want to disperse a crowd, why not disperse the crowd that is overturning cars?" he said.

O'Toole said the projectiles were designed to break on impact and disperse the target with pepper-like spray.

Boston police purchased the weapons specifically for crowd control during this summer's Democratic National Convention. Although the city braced for the type of violent demonstrations seen at other major political gatherings in recent years, protests at the DNC were relatively subdued and police never had to use the pepper guns.

Melvin L. Tucker, a security consultant and special agent in charge of deadly and non-deadly force by police, said the



Victoria Snelgrove, 21, died Thursday of a head injury suffered in a clash between police officers and a crowd of Red Sox fans.

"less-than-lethal" weaponry used by Boston police has become increasingly popular among police departments across the country over the past five years.

"Sadly, what we're talking about here is that this type of device generally results in fewer injuries to the officers and the public than the old way of dealing with this type of situation, which was with nightsticks, tear gas and other things," said Tucker, the former police chief of Tallahassee, Fla., and Asheville, N.C. "This is generally a lot safer. It's a real tragedy."

Cardinals, Red Sox a fittingly retro Series matchup

BY BERNIE MIKLASZ
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

BOSTON — Thank the baseball gods for giving us an old-school World Series. The color teal has been banned from these proceedings. The Boston Red Sox and St. Louis Cardinals play in actual ballparks instead of junked-up, gimmick-infested stadiums with swimming pools, waterfalls, artificial rock formations and shrieking video boards.

You have to go back to 1981, Dodgers vs. Yankees, to find a World Series matchup that rivals the rich, baseball genealogy represented here by the Cardinals and Red Sox. With apologies to Florida and Anaheim and Arizona, it's time to turn back the clock.

Red Sox and Cardinals. Or, as they say in this neighborhood, "Sox and Cahds."

This is the World Series of nostalgia.

This is a World Series for purists.

There is no need for fake retro baseball here. The Cardinals and Red Sox are genuine throwbacks, with real fans. The teams drift from a wide geographical range. The Red Sox are a religion throughout New England. The Cardinals have support in many parts of the Midwest, the South and the southwest. St. Louis and Boston not only have the most passionate baseball fans, they're also

the most knowledgeable. So if you want to talk ball at Fenway Park or Busch Stadium during this thinking-person's World Series, you'd better know your baseball history.

Start with the two previous Cardinals-Red Sox World Series, how Cardinals outfielder Enos Slaughter raced home on a mad dash on Oct. 15, 1946, to score the winning run in Game 7.

Or recall Oct. 12, 1967, the day Bob Gibson (nine innings, three hits, two runs, 10 strikeouts) mastered Boston in Game 7.

Boston is the franchise of Ted Williams — The Splendid Splinter, Ted Ballgame, lifetime batting average .344. St. Louis is the domain of Stan "The Man" Musial, lifetime average of .331. We're talking baseball royalty here.

Now, let's suspend with the pleasantries for a moment, and get one thing straight: There is no case, OK? Our friends in the Boston media need to come up with a new schtick.

Babe Ruth is dead. And if he haunts any establishment, it's a saloon, or perhaps a brothel. This is the Cardinals' fifth World Series since selling Ruth to the Yankees. Boston has reached the postseason seven times since last making the World Series in 1986. The Red Sox have won 39 postseason games since the Babe's first day as a Yankee. Other franchises should be so cursed, so doomed.

Analysis

For example, the Chicago White Sox haven't been to a World Series since 1959. And no team from Texas (Astros, Rangers) has ever surfaced in a World Series.

Granted, the Red Sox haven't won a World Series since 1918 ... but Doris Kearns Goodwin, John Updike, Stephen King and every other Red Sox devotee aren't hexed, and life is good. The Red Sox just accomplished a remarkable feat, freeing themselves from the Yankee pinstripes by becoming the first team in baseball history to erase a 3-0 deficit to win a postseason series 4-3.

In the interesting St. Louis-Boston sports relationship, the spoils have been divided rather equitably. The Cardinals are 2-0 against the Red Sox in the World Series, but the Bruins beat the Blues in the 1970 Stanley Cup Finals, the New England Patriots upset the Rams in the Super Bowl, and the St. Louis Hawks traded Bill Russell to the Boston Celtics, with Russell in the middle the Celtics became a dynasty ... though the Hawks did upset the Celtics in the 1958 NBA Finals.

This should be a fantastic series. The Cardinals and Red Sox have robust offenses. The Cardinals will benefit from the DH rule, which gives them an extra

WORLD SERIES

Saturday, Oct. 23
St. Louis (Williams 11-8) at Boston (Walden) 7-1

Sunday, Oct. 24
St. Louis (Mantillo 15-7) at Boston (Schilling) 2-1

Monday, Oct. 25
Boston (Martinez 6-9) at St. Louis (Crispen) 2-1

Tuesday, Oct. 26
Boston (Lowe 14-12) at St. Louis (Thurmond) 2-0

Wednesday, Oct. 27
Boston at St. Louis, if necessary

Thursday, Oct. 28
St. Louis at Boston, if necessary

Friday, Oct. 29
St. Louis at Boston, if necessary

Saturday, Oct. 30
St. Louis at Boston, if necessary

boost in the Fenway games, and removes a Boston bat in the three games at Busch. The Cardinals are more renowned as we saw in Game 7 this team can win with brains (red: small ball) and brawn. The Cardinals have more speed and play better defense.

The Red Sox have the stronger bench.

The Red Sox have an advantage in starting pitching, but that could change if Curt Schilling's ankle doesn't hold up. The Cardinals' rotation has exceeded expectations all season, somehow overcoming its mediocrity to deliver well-pitched games when the need arises.

We saw that again in the NL Championship Series, when Jeff Suppan outpitched Roger Clem-

ens in Game 7. The Red Sox have a slight edge in the bullpen; that check mark would have gone to the Cardinals if they had a healthy Steve Kline to go with Ray King to form the formidable left-handed combo. Boston has a more intimidating closer in Keith Foulke.

Momentum: Even. Both teams came back in the LCS. Boston's miracle comeback over New York was more dramatic, but New York has to wonder if the ALCS was the real World Series for the Red Sox.

Managers: Tony La Russa has more postseason experience than Terry Francona, and that should account for something.

The last time we saw Boston (1986) and St. Louis (1987) in a World Series, Ronald Reagan was in the White House. The desire is strong on both sides. The Red Sox have the grunge look going for them, and are often depicted as crazed, baseball-playing maniacs who would be denied. But the Cardinals, minus the whiskers and hippie hair, are just as driven.

"Obviously, this is the best team in baseball going head-to-head," Foulke said. "There's nothing that's going to be easy about this. And you wouldn't want it to be easy. But these ballclubs, with two great offenses, and a bunch of guys who can pitch on both sides, it's going to be a do-or-die."

Two predictions: The Budweiser and the Sam Adams will be frosty cold. And Cardinals in seven.

Suppan to face team that cut him

BY R.B. FALLSTOM
The Associated Press

BOSTON — Somewhat lost in the St. Louis Cardinals' Game 7 victory over a future Hall of Fame pitcher was the role their little-known starter played in getting them to their first World Series in 17 years.

Jeff Suppan won a career-best 16 games as the No. 5 starter for a team that had the major league's best record. Yet before Chris Carpenter was sidelined in mid-September with nerve damage in his right biceps, Suppan was in danger of being the odd man out in manager Tony La Russa's four-man postseason rotation.

Suppan entered Game 7 of the NL championship series against Houston on Thursday night as a decided underdog, having gone

1-4 against the Astros in the regular season. Three of those losses came against Roger Clemens.

Suppan did his job. He kept the game close, and even contributed a squeeze bunt for the Cardinals' first run, before the National League's best offense finally broke through against Clemens with a back-breaking, three-run sixth. In six innings, Suppan allowed two runs on only three hits.

Craig Biggio hit Suppan's fourth pitch of the game for a lead-off homer, but the right-hander didn't let it bother him.

"Look at his numbers: He did exactly what Clemens did," Cardinals general manager Walt Jocketty said. "He doesn't have the fanfare, but he held them down and did a fantastic job. He gave our offense an opportunity to kick in."

The Astros were impressed with Suppan's low-key proficiency. He throws a fastball in the low 90s, getting by with changes of speed.

"Suppan pitched a great game," first baseman Jeff Bagwell said. "They make the guys put the ball in play and let their Gold Glove guys take over."

Suppan has played for six teams and never won more than 13 games before this season. He joined the Cardinals before this season, signing a two-year, \$6 million free-agent contract after being cut loose by Boston.

The Red Sox left him off the roster for the AL division series last fall and he didn't play in the ALCS. Now, he'll get the chance to pitch against his old team in the World Series.

In the division series against Los Angeles, Suppan started the decisive fourth game behind Woody Williams, Jason Marquis and Matt Morris, and outpitched them all when he allowed three runs in six innings.

La Russa bumped Suppan to third in the rotation for the NLCS and he battled the 42-year-old Clemens on nearly even terms in a 3-2 loss in Game 3, giving up three runs in the first and then throwing five shutout innings.

"Any time you go against Clemens, you know it's going to be a battle," Suppan said. "I've played with him and it was very memorable to go up against him again."

In Game 7, Suppan benefited from a diving catch by center fielder Jim Edmonds, who robbed Brad Ausmus of extra bases and the Astros of two runs in the second.

Game 1 late

Game 1 of the World Series started too late to be included in this edition. The game will be covered in Monday's issue.


"He's been doing that all year long, and his whole career," Suppan said. "To come up in a game like this and make a play like that really set the tone."

Suppan also helped himself with the squeeze bunt that delivered the Cardinals' first run in the third inning, cutting the deficit to 2-1.

"That's a high-risk play," La Russa said. "Sometimes, you go ahead and take a shot."

Suppan left trailing 2-1 before the Cardinals rallied on Albert Pujols' tying double and Scott Rolen's two-run homer on consecutive pitches.

"That's twice he stepped up to the plate big for us," right fielder Larry Walker said. "He pitched two great games."



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SPORTS

Patriots face threat in Jets

Two of NFL's three unbeaten teams meet with N.E. streak on line

BY HOWARD ULMAN

The Associated Press

FOXBORO, Mass. — Every NFL team would be eager to knock off the New England Patriots and end their NFL record winning streak of 20 games. Not all of them would have as good a chance as the New York Jets.

In a matchup of two of the league's three unbeaten teams, Patriots safety Rodney Harrison expects the Jets to come into Sunday's game with great confidence.

"They're 5-0," he said. "Wouldn't you?"

With Curtis Martin leading the NFL in rushing, Chad Pennington tops in the AFC in passing accuracy and John Abraham first in the AFC in sacks, the Jets have a much better chance to beat their AFC East rivals than they did last year when they started 0-4 and finished 6-10 with two losses to the Patriots.

A win Sunday would match their victory total for all last season.

"Going up there, playing well and winning means we're making progress and taking the right steps toward being a championship organization," Pennington said.

That's what the Patriots are after winning their second Super Bowl in three years on Feb. 1. That was their 15th consecutive win, including playoffs. They set the record of 19 straight by beating Miami and can set the regular-season mark of 18, surpassing the 17 won by the 1933-34 Chicago Bears, with a win over the Jets.

But there's no gloating or cele-



New York Jets vs. New England Patriots
10 p.m. Sunday
AFN-Pacific/Korea

Game time is Central European.

brating in the locker room, only hard work, serious expressions and a coach, Bill Belichick, who won't let them get impressed with themselves.

"You've got to be humble. You're playing against a 5-0 team that's playing really well right now," Patriots linebacker Willie McGinest said. "We're not playing the way we want to be playing."

Last season the Patriots ended a five-game home losing streak against the Jets. The Patriots are 18-3 at Gillette Stadium, where their last loss was against the Jets on Dec. 22, 2002.

"Anybody that's coming in here is expecting to end the streak some way," New England cornerback Ty Law said. "We were last year's Super Bowl champions and we're getting a lot of attention because of streaks."

The Patriots did beat Indianapolis and Seattle, but the combined records of the five teams they've beaten is 9-17. That's impressive compared to the quality of the Jets' opponents, who are 6-22 with none of them having a winning record.

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Bucs escape Admirals' grip



RAYMOND T. CONWAY/Stars and Stripes

Baumholder's Rashad Taylor, right, is tackled by Rota's Joseph Casey during a DODDS Division III playoff game in Baumholder, Germany, on Saturday. Baumholder beat Rota 40-29 to advance to a semifinal game this Saturday at Hohenfels. See Pages 41-43 for a wrapup of Saturday's high school sports action.

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